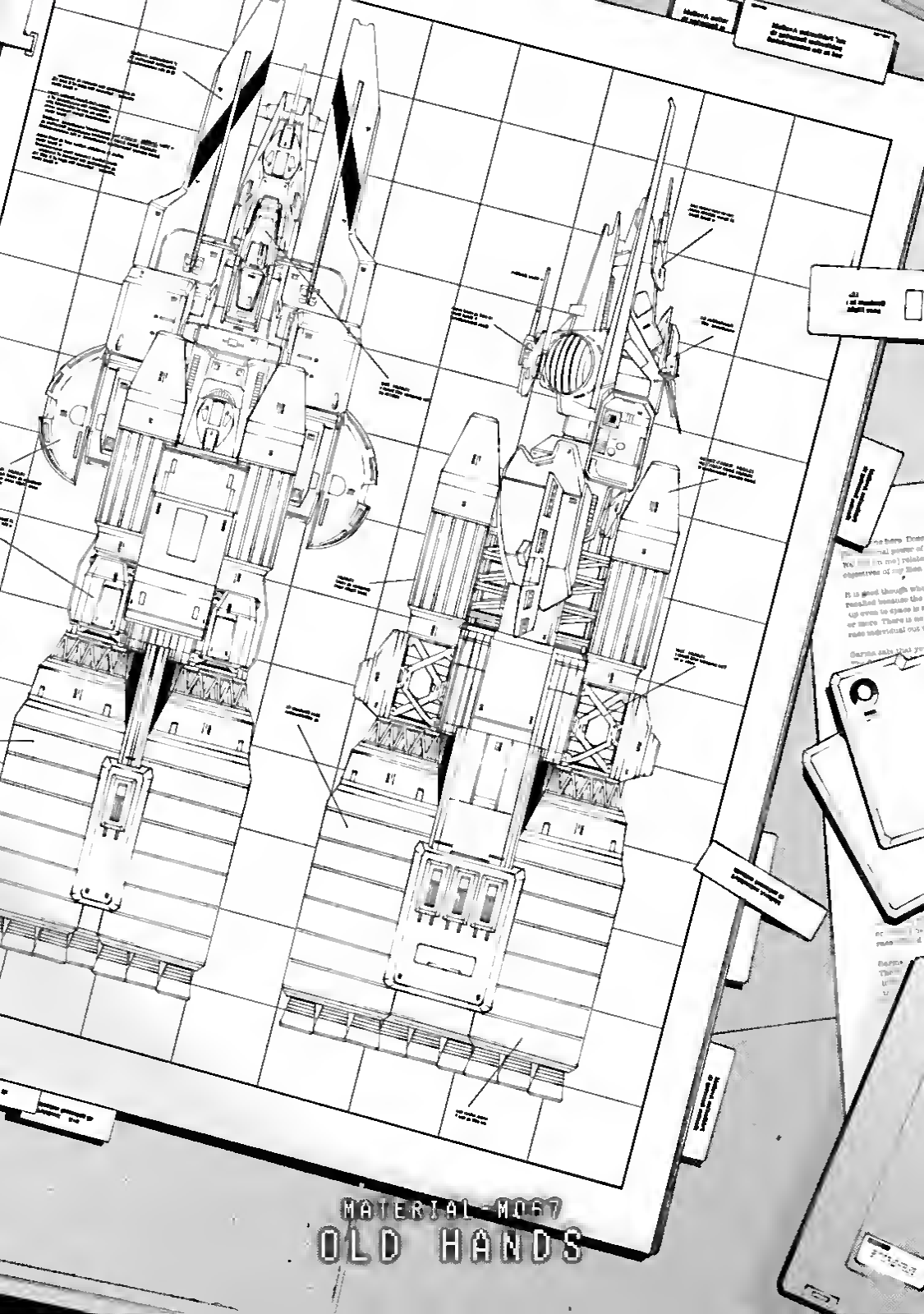
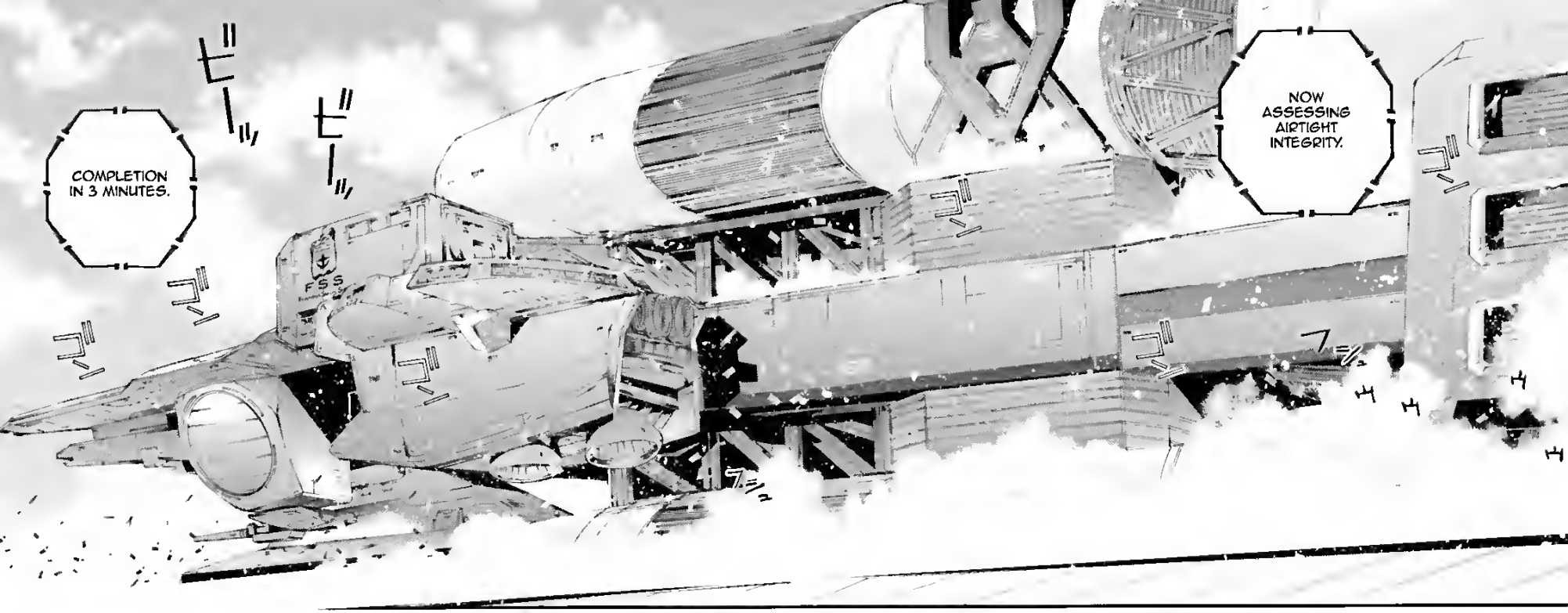
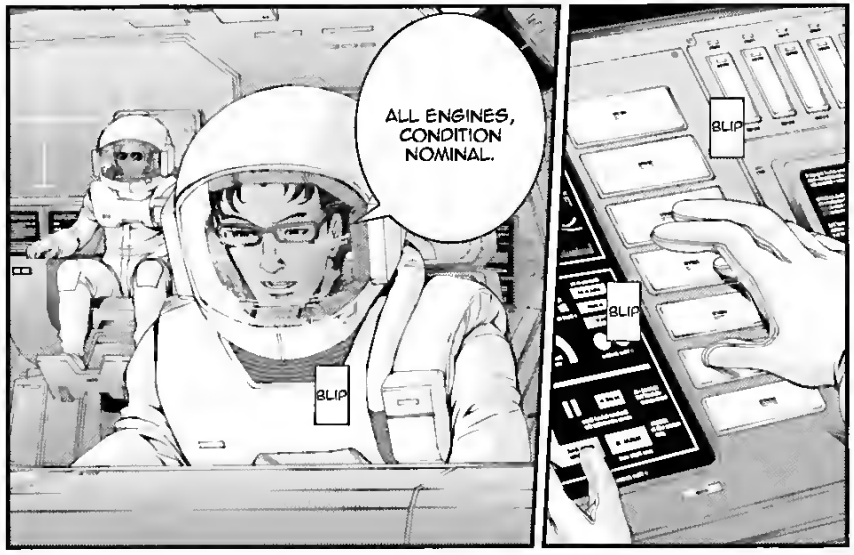
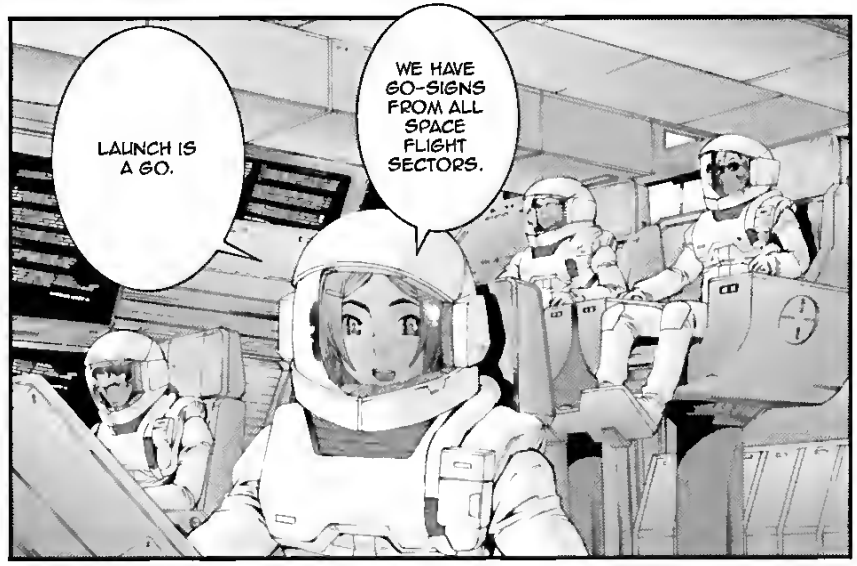


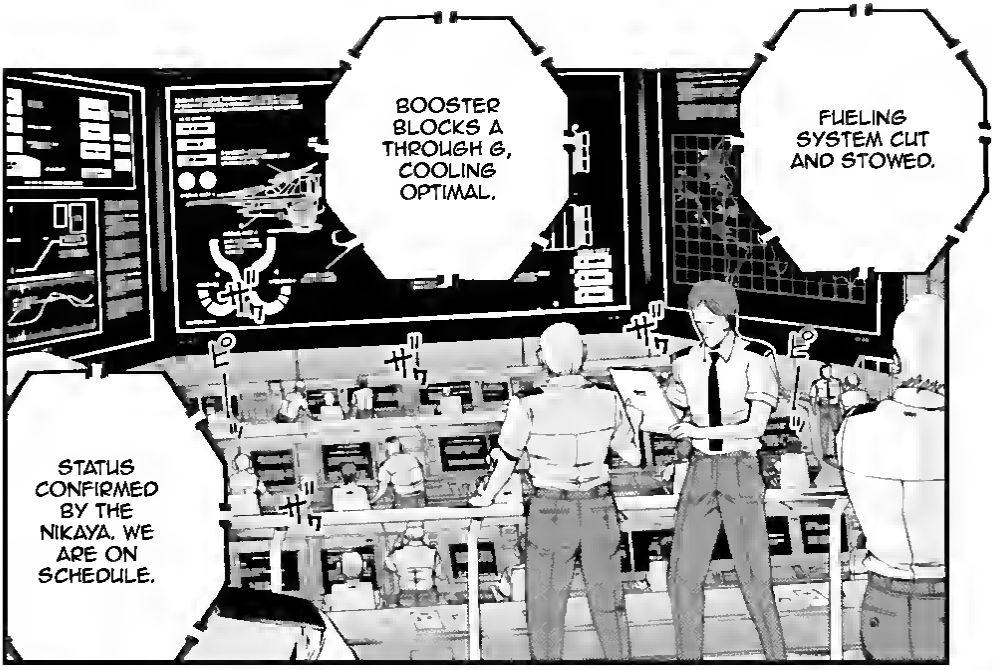
MATERIAL-MO67

OLD HANDS

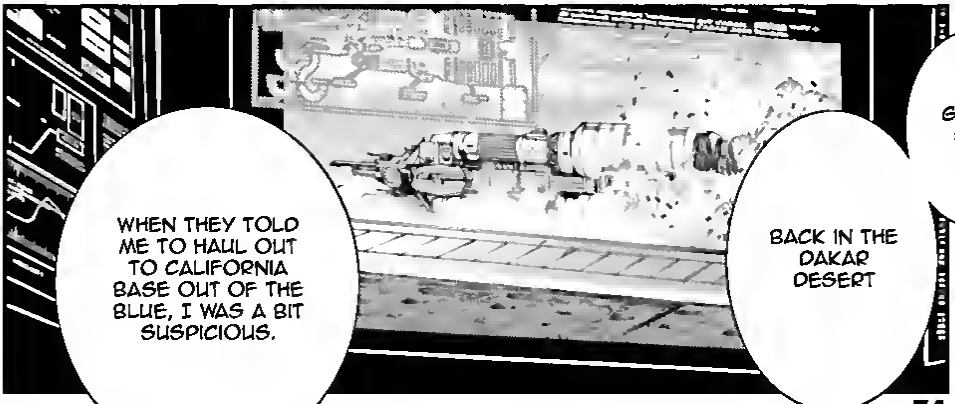

COMPLETION IN 3 MINUTES.
NOW ASSESSING AIRTIGHT INTEGRITY.

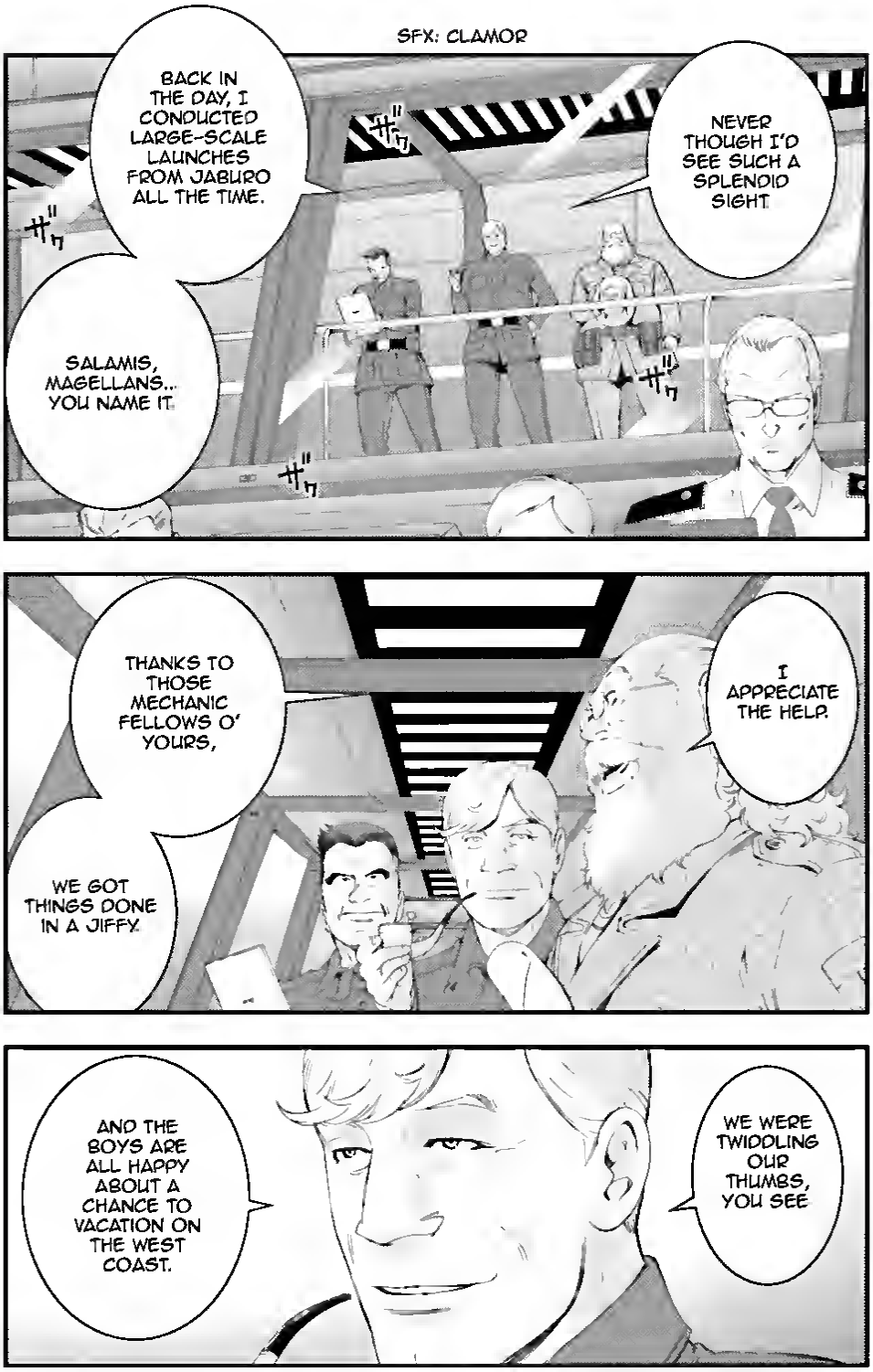

ALL ENGINES, CONDITION NOMINAL.
BLIP
BLIP
BLIP


LAUNCH IS A GO.
WE HAVE GO-SIGNS FROM ALL SPACE FLIGHT SECTORS.


BOOSTER BLOCKS A THROUGH G, COOLING OPTIMAL.
FUELING SYSTEM CUT AND STOWED.
STATUS CONFIRMED BY THE NIKAYA. WE ARE ON SCHEDULE.

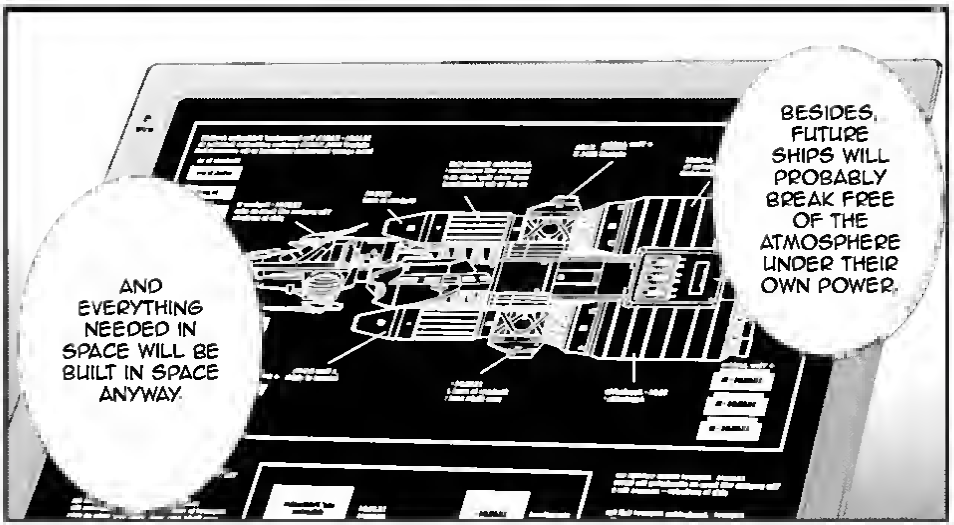
SFX: BUSY CLAMOR




SFX: CLAMOR
BACK IN THE DAY, I CONDUCTED LARGE-SCALE LAUNCHES FROM JABURO ALL THE TIME.
NEVER THOUGH I'D SEE SUCH A SPLENDID SIGHT.
SALAMIS, MAGELLANS... YOU NAME IT.
THANKS TO THOSE MECHANIC FELLOWS O' YOURS,
I APPRECIATE THE HELP.
WE GOT THINGS DONE IN A JIFFY.
AND THE BOYS ARE ALL HAPPY ABOUT A CHANCE TO VACATION ON THE WEST COAST.
WE WERE TWIDDLING OUR THUMBS, YOU SEE

WELL, US TWIDDLING THUMBS MIGHT BE A GOOD THING FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD.
SAME AS OURS.
I DON'T DISAGREE.

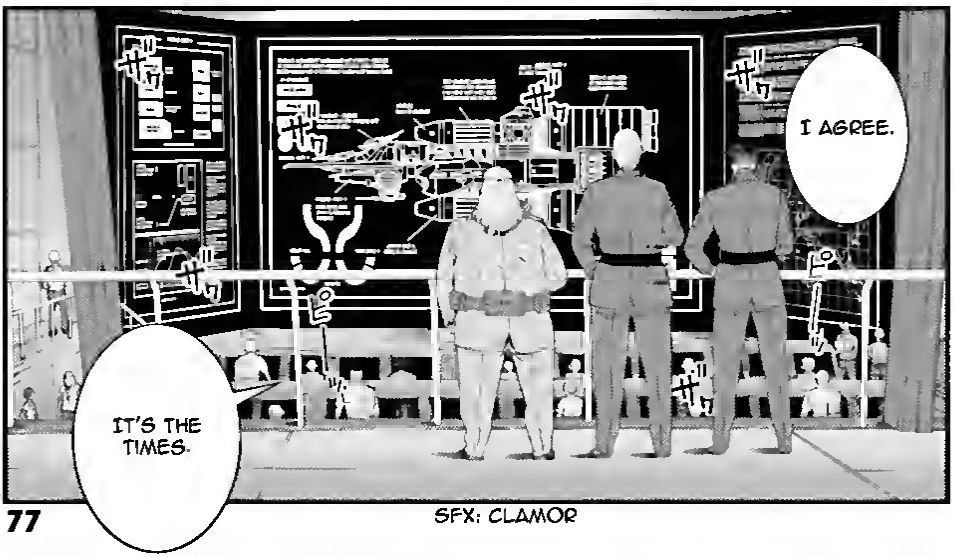
TO LAUNCH SOMETHING THIS BIG.
STILL... THIS MIGHT BE THE LAST CHANCE FOR US


BESIDES, FUTURE SHIPS WILL PROBABLY BREAK FREE OF THE ATMOSPHERE UNDER THEIR OWN POWER.
AND EVERYTHING NEEDED IN SPACE WILL BE BUILT IN SPACE ANYWAY.

THAT MIGHT BE A GOOD SIGN.
WE SERVED AS LAUNCH EXPERTS SINCE THE ONE YEAR, HAVEN'T WE GENTLEMEN?

IS IT REALLY THE TIMES THAT HAVE CHANGED?

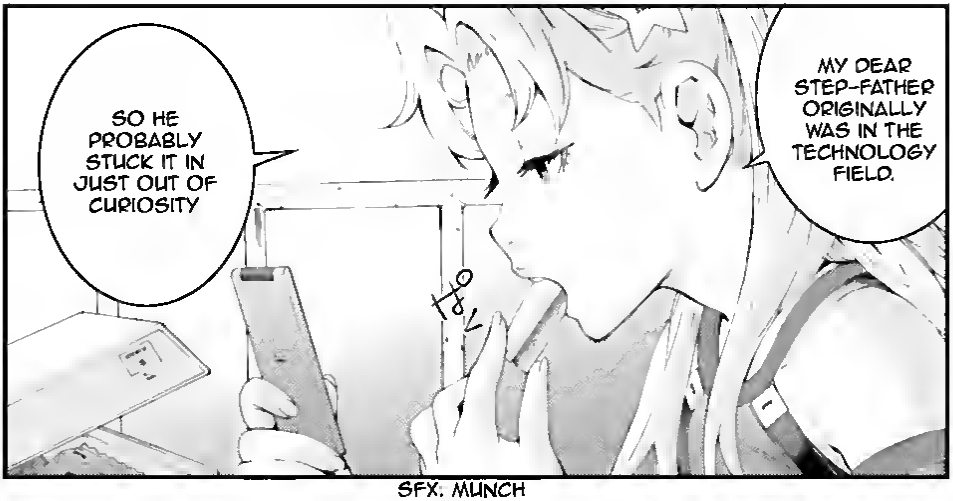
THEY'VE CHANGED, EH?
THE TIMES...


I AGREE.
IT'S THE TIMES.

SFX: CLAMOR

STILL, GOTTA SAY..
THIS GUNDAM MAKES ME NOSTALGIC.

IT CONFUSED THE HECK OUT OF ME AT FIRST.
WHATEVER YOU SAY.
YEAH
BIOSENSOR, OR SOMETHING, WAS IT?
AND THEY SAID IT INCLUDES
A PSYCOMMU, THE ZABI'S SPECIALTY.


MY DEAR STEP-FATHER ORIGINALLY WAS IN THE TECHNOLOGY FIELD.
SO HE PROBABLY STUCK IT IN JUST OUT OF CURIOSITY
SFX: MUNCH

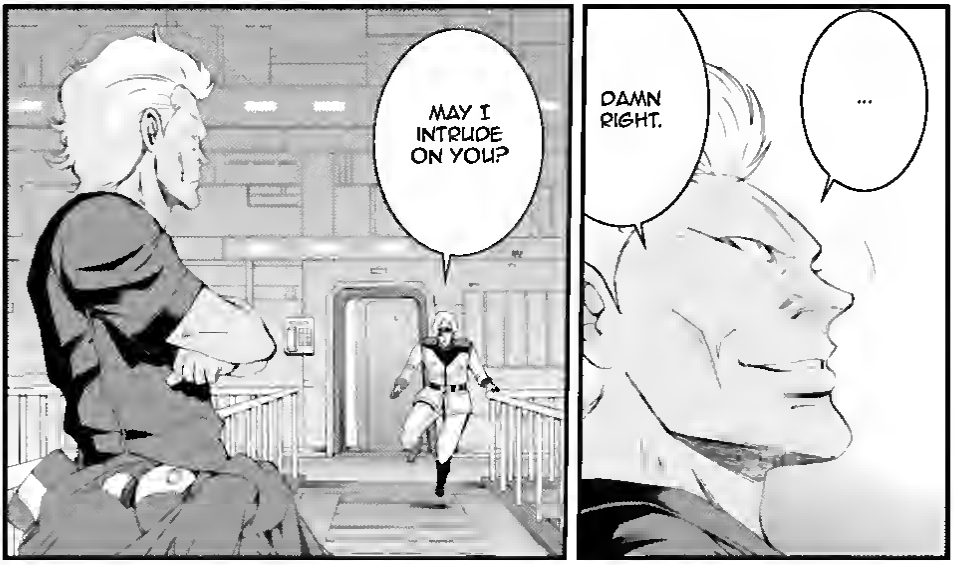
USING PEOPLE AS A GUINEA PIG BY TREATING THEM AS A BELOVED DAUGHTER.
I CAN'T STAND IT.

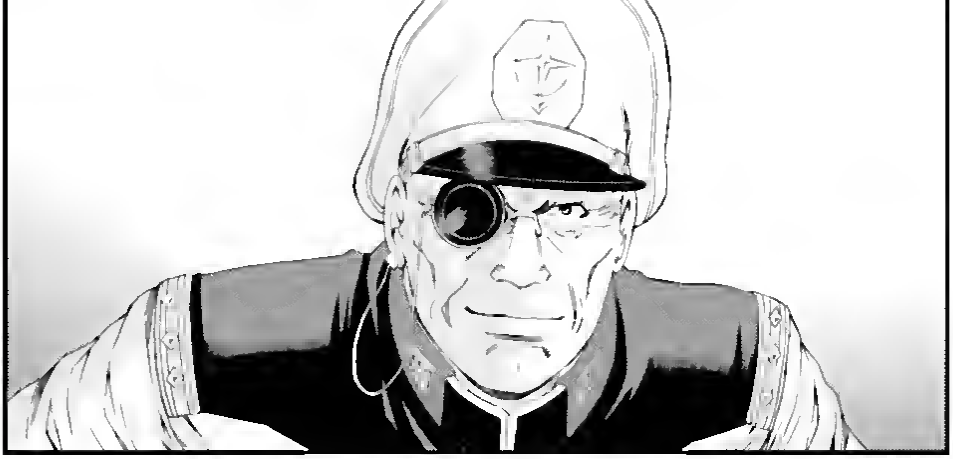
BUT YOU'RE STILL HAVING SOME FUN, AREN'T YA?
IT'S BETTER THAN PLAYING PRINCESS-HIDE-AND-SEEK ON EARTH.
A THOUSAND TIMES BETTER.

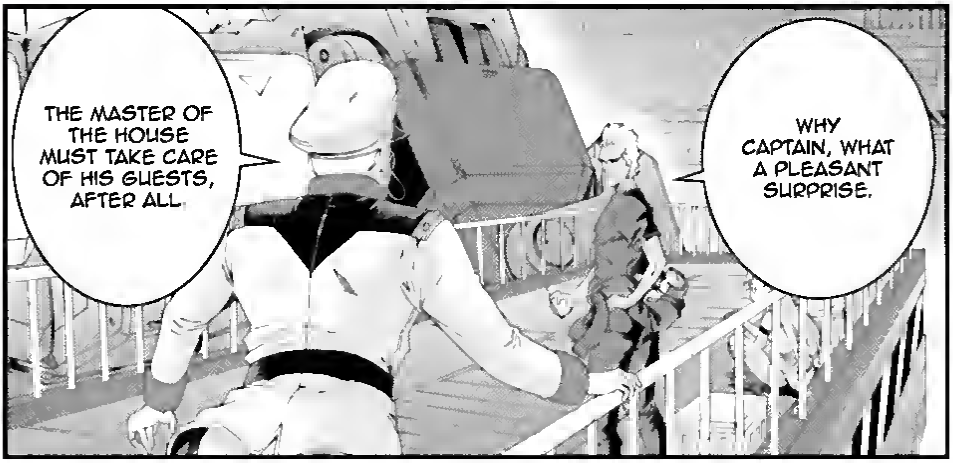
I CAN'T USE THE BIOSENSOR AND ALL THIS PSYCOMMU STUFF...
GOT NO NEWTYPE QUALITIES, IT SEEMS.

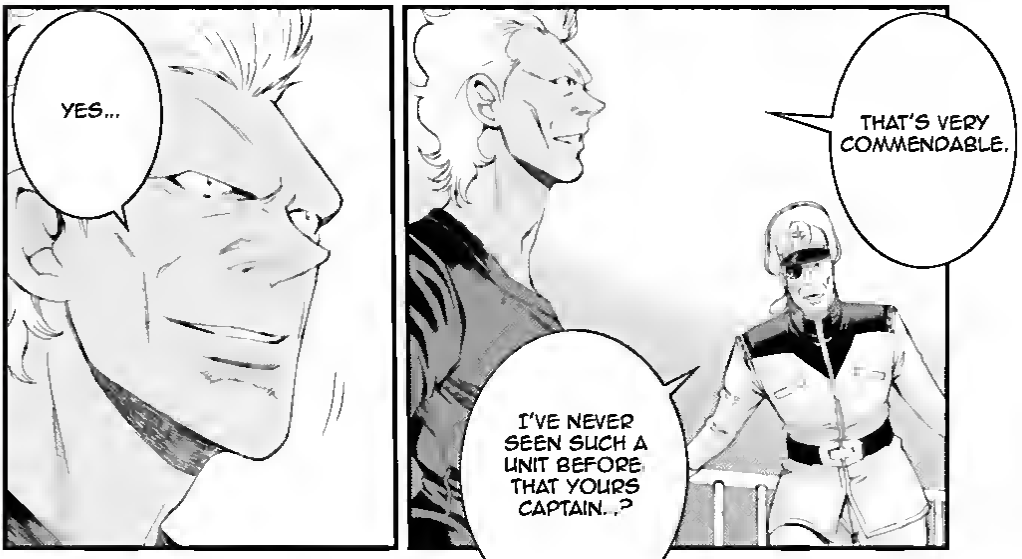
GOOD. YOU DON'T NEED ALL THIS NEWTYPE BALOGNA.
IN MANY WAYS, YOU DON'T NEED IT.

SFX. DAB

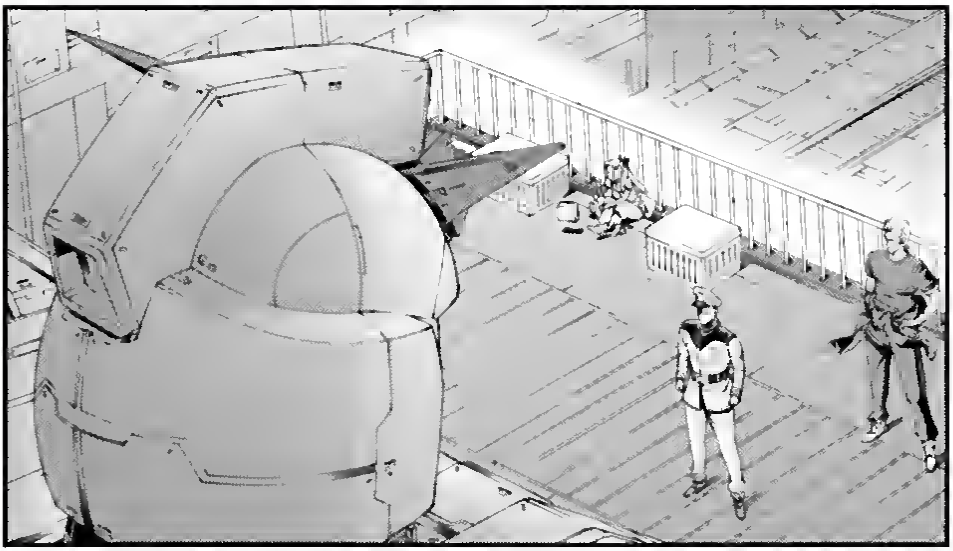

...
DAMN RIGHT.
MAY I INTRUDE ON YOU?




THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE MUST TAKE CARE OF HIS GUESTS, AFTER ALL.
WHY CAPTAIN, WHAT A PLEASANT SURPRISE.

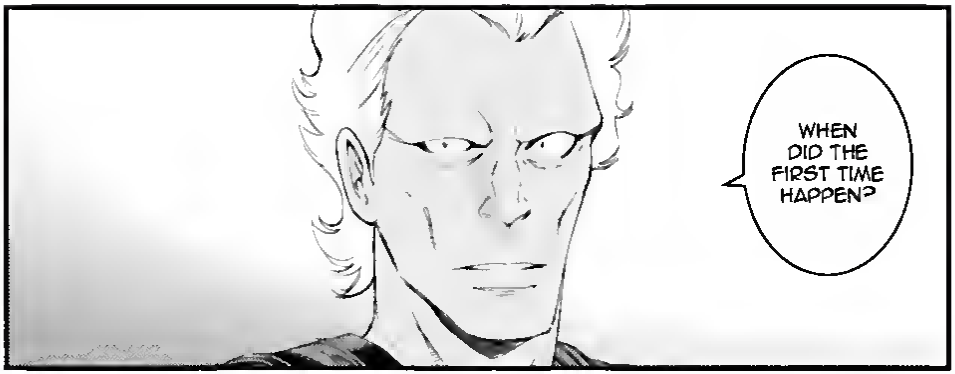

YES...
THAT'S VERY COMMENDABLE.
I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A UNIT BEFORE. THAT YOURS CAPTAIN..?

THIS COMPOSITE UNIT WAS A PREVIOUS GROUND UNIT UPGRADED WITH THE LATEST PARTS FOR SPACE-USE.
FRANKLY, IF YOU WANT MY OPINION, IT'S NOTHING MORE THAN A PATCHWORK TOY.
OH? EVEN IF IT'S JUST PARTS,
THAT'S WHY IT DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A MODEL NUMBER.
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME SEEING A JEGAN TYPE.
I SEE.
ITS SPECS AREN'T BAD.
ALSO,
A GUNDAM AS WELL...?



YOU DON'T SEEM FAZED.
...

A GUNDAM TYPE ON MY SHIP.
THIS IS THE SECOND TIME I'VE HAD


WHEN DID THE FIRST TIME HAPPEN?

A PROTOTYPE, WAS IT?
DURING THE ONE YEAR WAR.

I SEE ...
SO YOU'RE THE SAME AS US.
IF YOU INCLUDE MY TIME AS A SUBSTITUTE CAPTAIN, THIS'LL BE MY, WHAT, 12TH YEAR ..?
I TAKE IT YOU'VE BEEN ON THIS SHIP A WHILE?

THIS SHIP IS THE SAME AS WELL.
IT'S NOT JUST ME.
SFX: STEP STEP

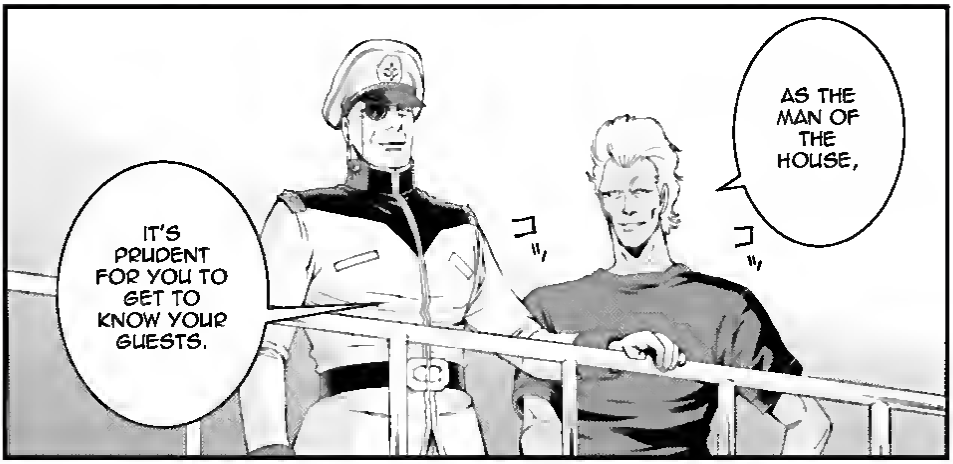
THEY JUST CAN'T PUT HER TO REST, EH....
WHEN SOMETHING'S SO USEFUL,

AND YOU?
WHEN PUT THAT WAY, I GUESS NOT.

ME...? AFTER I GOT A TASTE OF THE BATTLEFIELD,
I DISCOVERED IT'S RIGHT WHERE I BELONG...
OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

AFTER THE ONE YEAR WAR ENDED, I WAS IN A DARK PLACE IN MY LIFE.
SO I JOINED THE LIKES OF SOME IDEALISTIC GROUP JUST TO BE ABLE TO WAGE SOME WAR, EVEN THOUGH I HELD NO IDEALS OF MY OWN.
THOUGH THAT ENDED IN ONE BIG FAILURE.

YOU ARE TALKATIVE....
THAT'S VERY GOOD.


AS THE MAN OF THE HOUSE,
IT'S PRUDENT FOR YOU TO GET TO KNOW YOUR GUESTS.

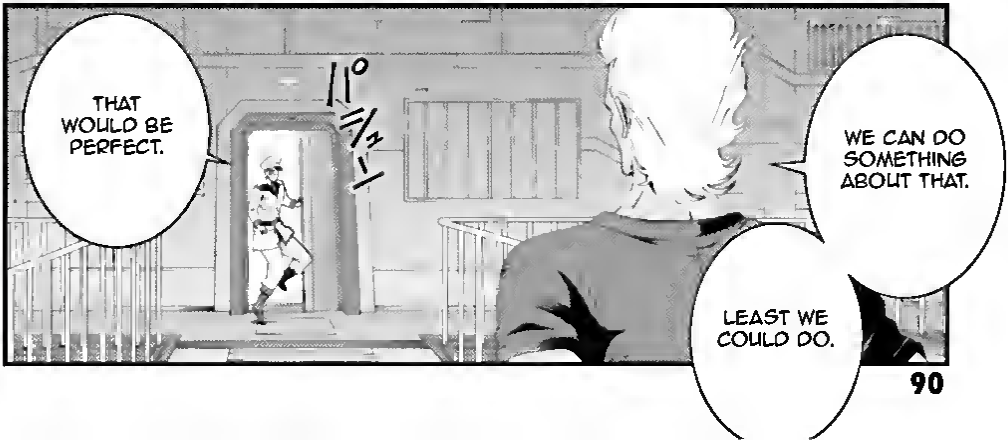
I WILL TAKE THAT AS A SIGN THAT YOU HAVE HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR US.

NOW THEN, I MUST RETURN TO THE BRIDGE...
I'M SATISFIED TO KNOW THAT WE WILL BE GETTING ALONG FROM HEREON.
I'M GLAD I CAME DOWN HERE AFTER ALL.

COMRADES ?
I UNDERSTAND THAT WE'RE ON THE SAME PAGE.
SINCE WE'RE BOTH COMRADES OF THE CHAIRMAN,
THAT WAS THE CHAIRMAN'S CHOICE OF WORDS
INTERESTING...

SO LONG AS WE'RE COMRADES... WE SHALL HAVE TO COOPERATE.
I SHALL KEEP THAT IN MIND
THAT WOULD BE GREAT.

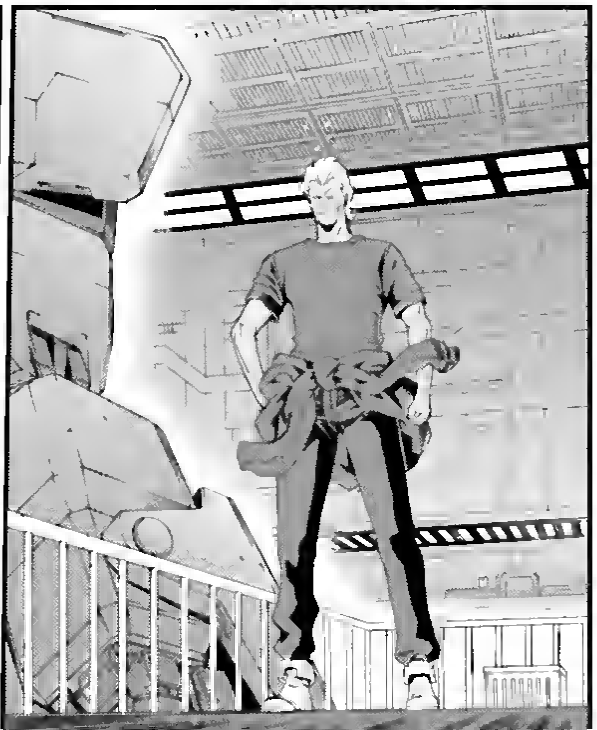
BUT UNFORTUNATELY, WE CAN'T OFFER MUCH IN RETURN, AS OUR STORES OF BEER ARE ALMOST EMPTY.
OH, SPEAKING OF WHICH, THANK FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION FOR THE MECHANICS.

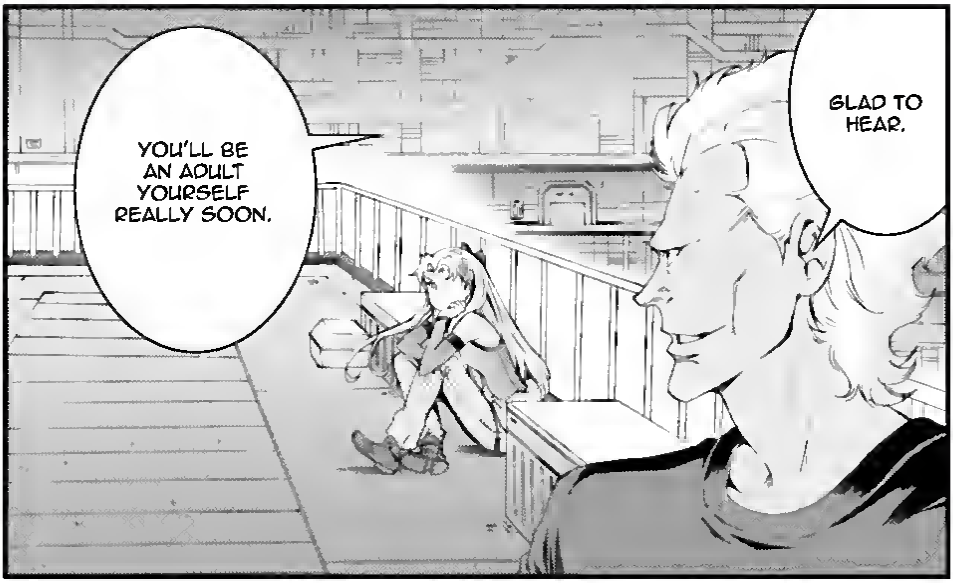

THAT WOULD BE PERFECT.
WE CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT.
LEAST WE COULD DO.

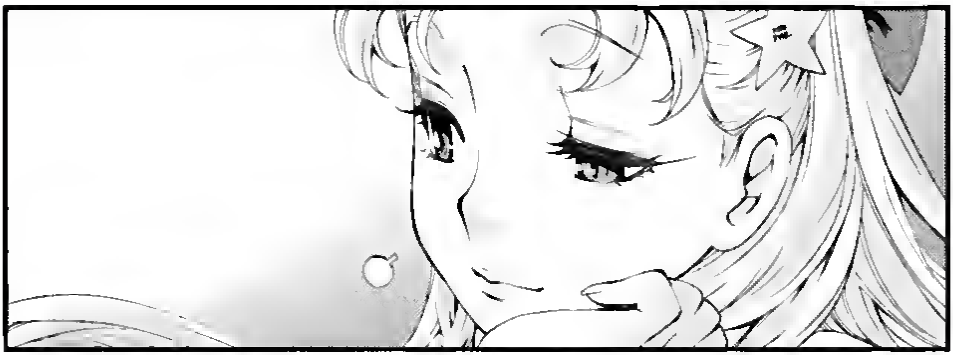
ANYTHING FOR A COMRADE.

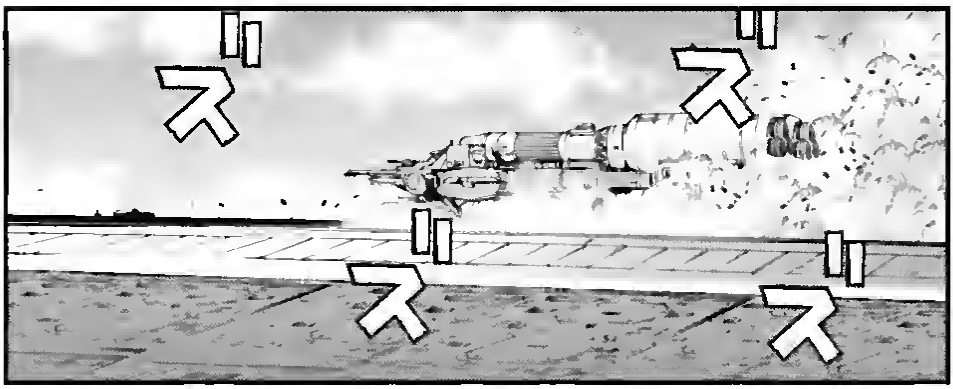
ENJOY YOUR STAY.

ADULT CONVERSATIONS .. THEY'RE SO FUN TO LISTEN TO.



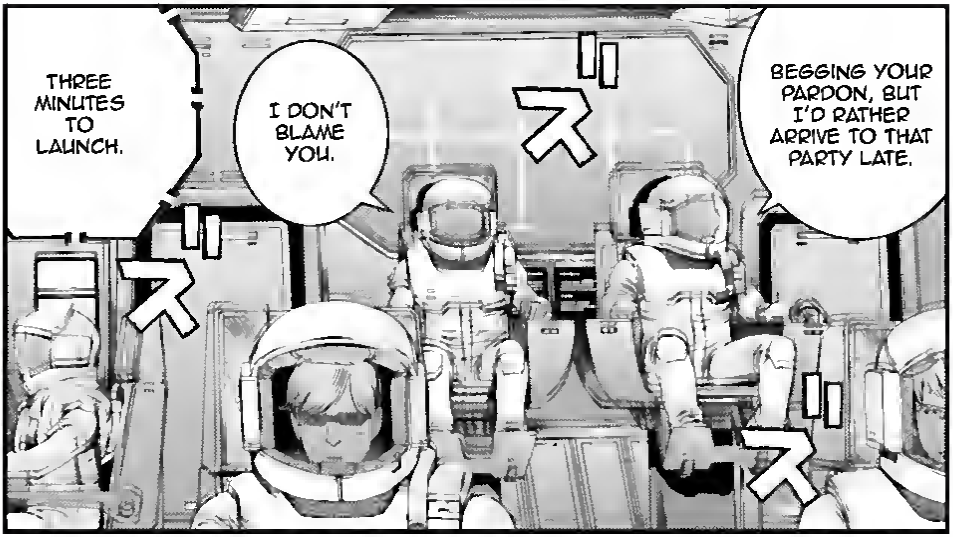






SFX: RUMBLE RUMBLE

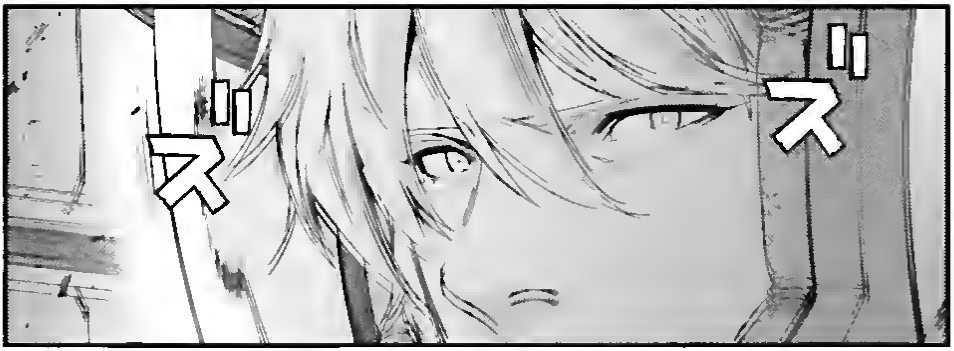
THIS MIGHT BE THE LAST TIME TOO.
I HAVEN'T BEEN BACK TO SPACE IN A WHILE.
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF EVERYTHING ASIDE FROM SIGHT-SEEING.
ALL MY COLLEAGUES ARE ALREADY RETIRED ANYWAY.
SFX: RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT.
AND MANY OF THEM ARE NOW ONE WITH THE STARS, HUH?



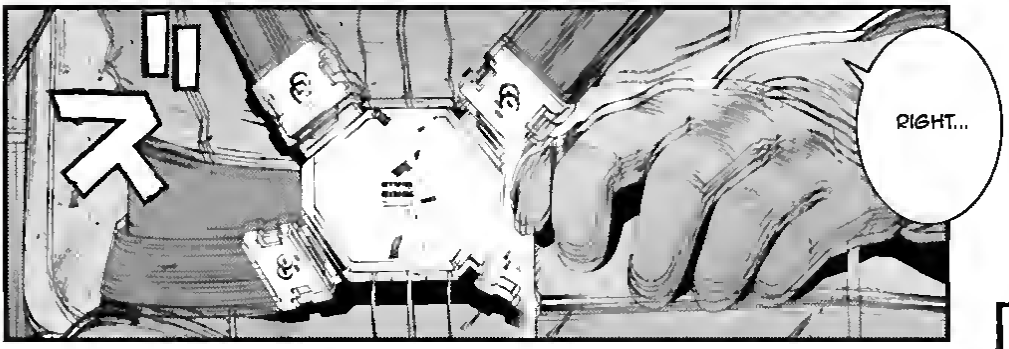
SFX: RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE

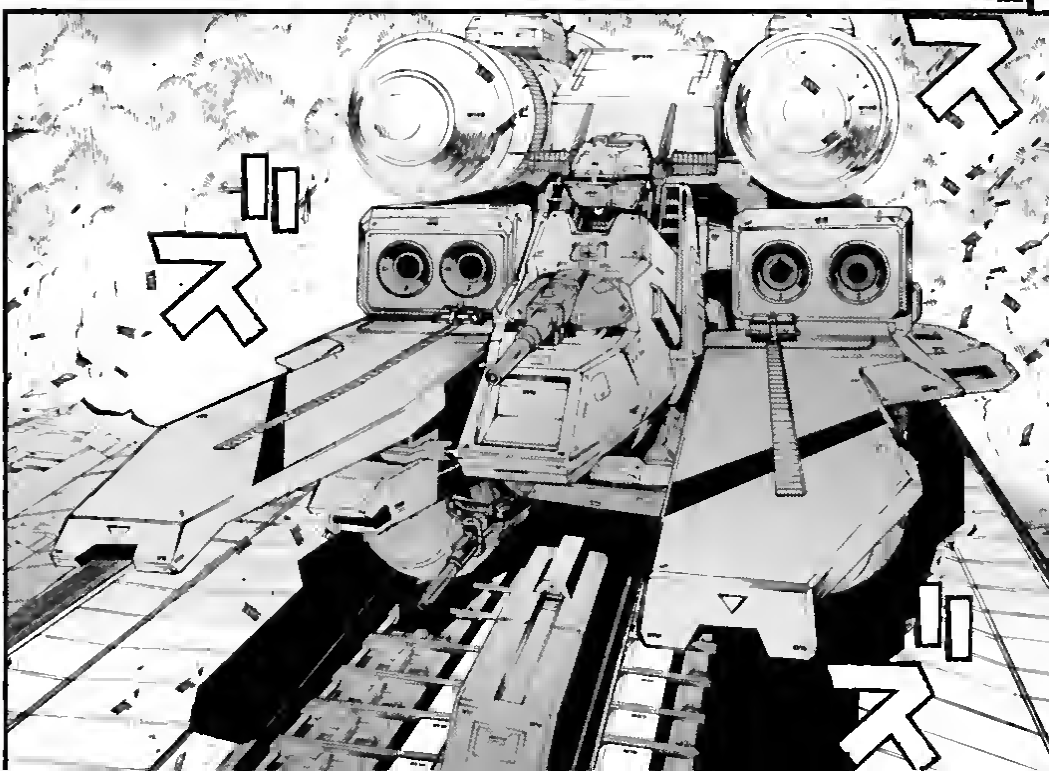
SFX: CLAMOR

SFX: RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE



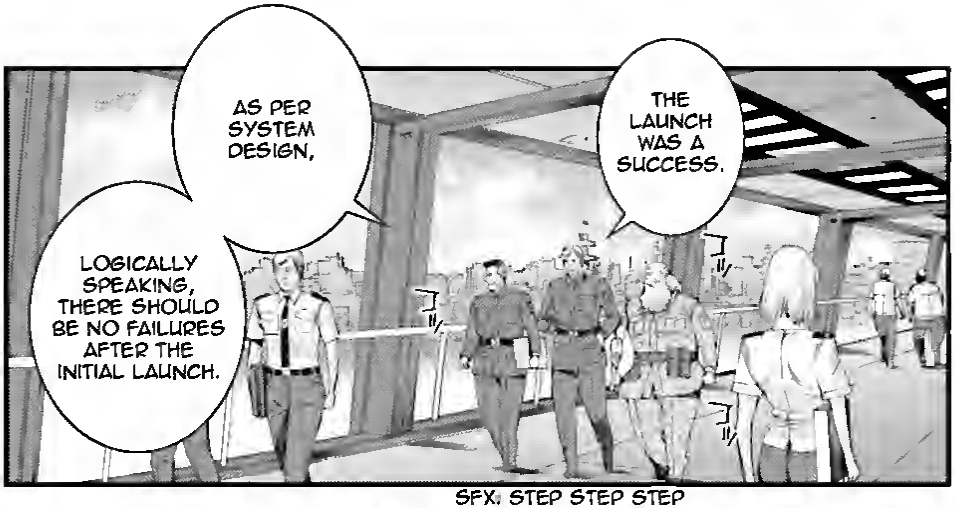
SFX: RUMBLE RUMBLE



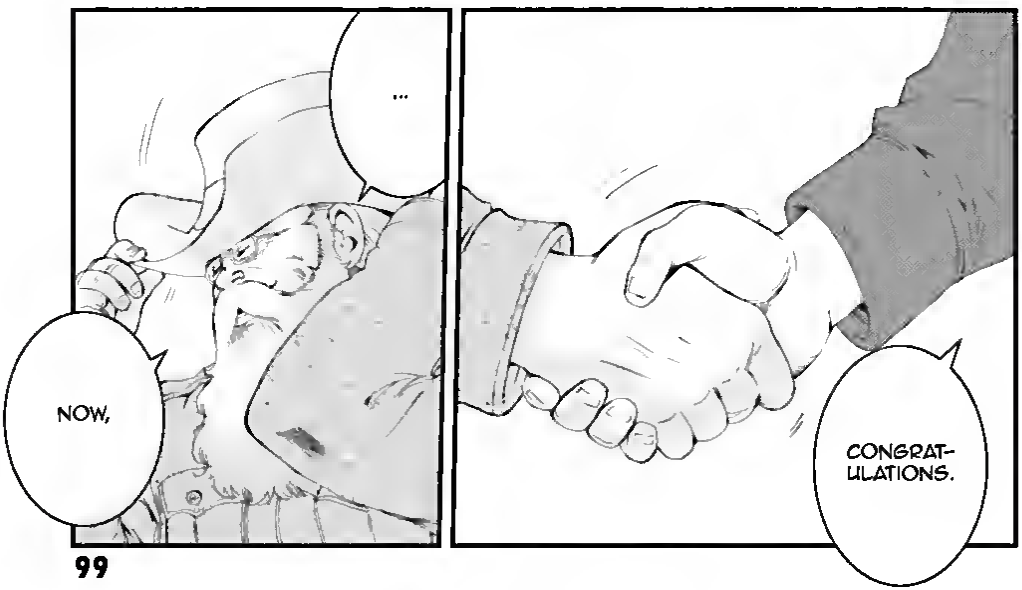


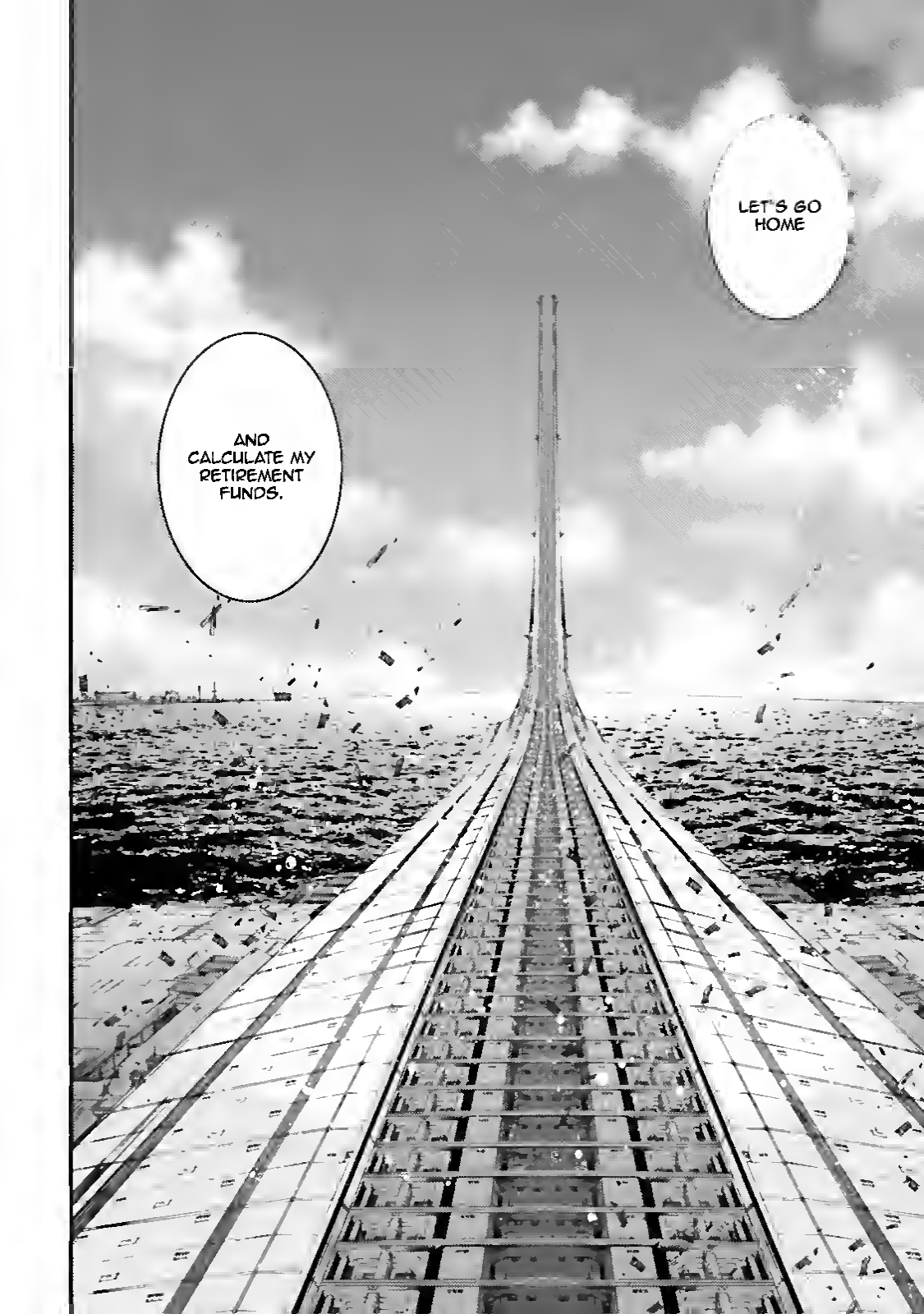
SFX. RUMBLE RUMBLE

SFX. RUMBLE RUMBLE



SFX: STEP STEP STEP

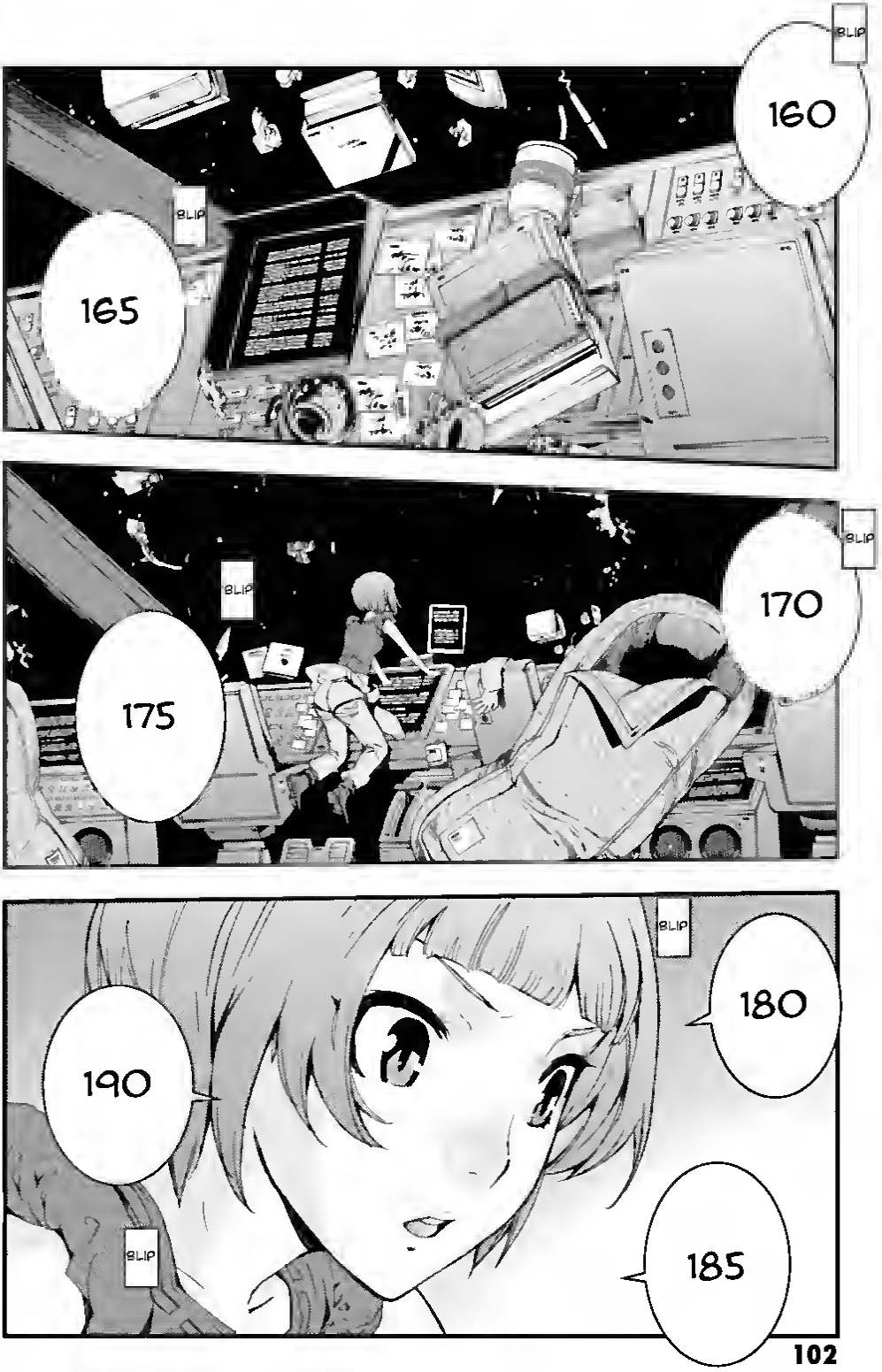



LET'S GO HOME
AND CALCULATE MY RETIREMENT FUNDS.

NEW M-SIZE CRUISER

MATERIAL - MD68

MISCHIEVOUS


BLIP
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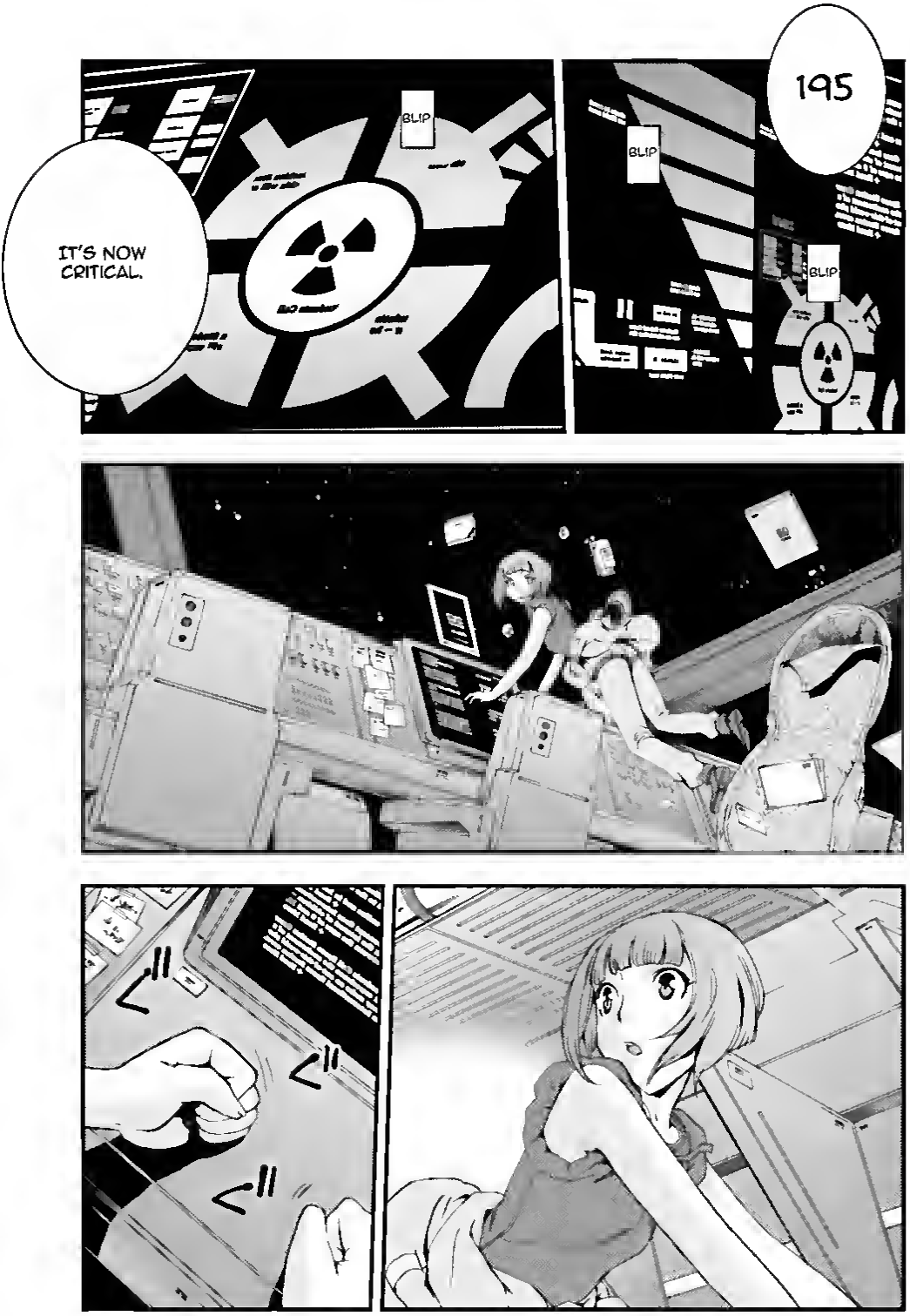
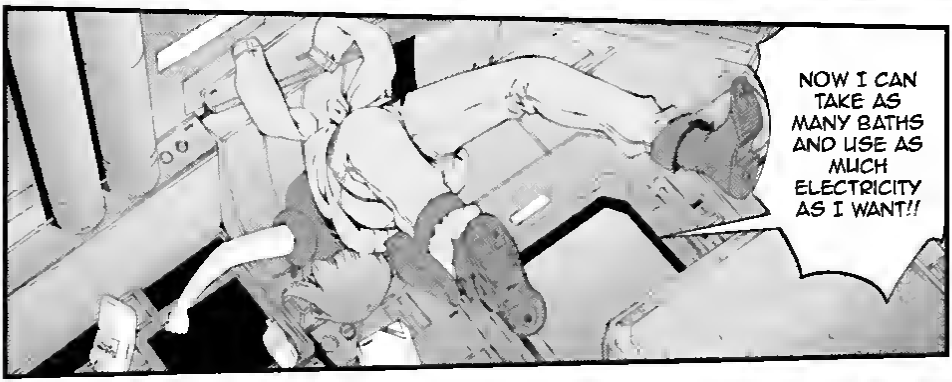
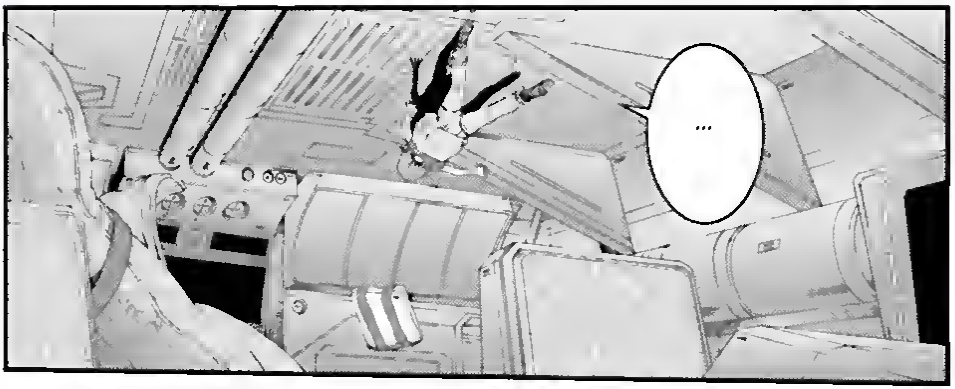


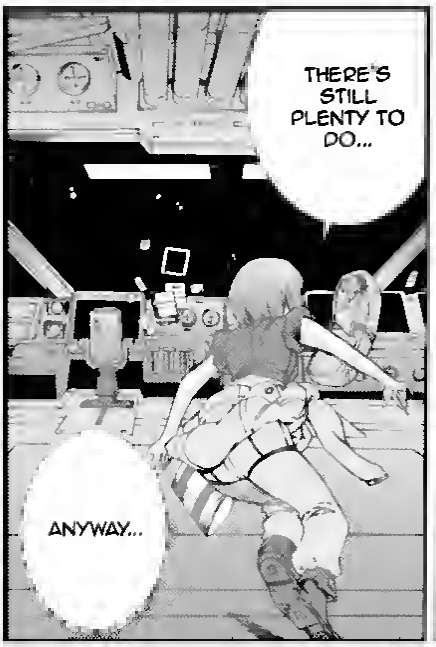
SFX. CLENCH

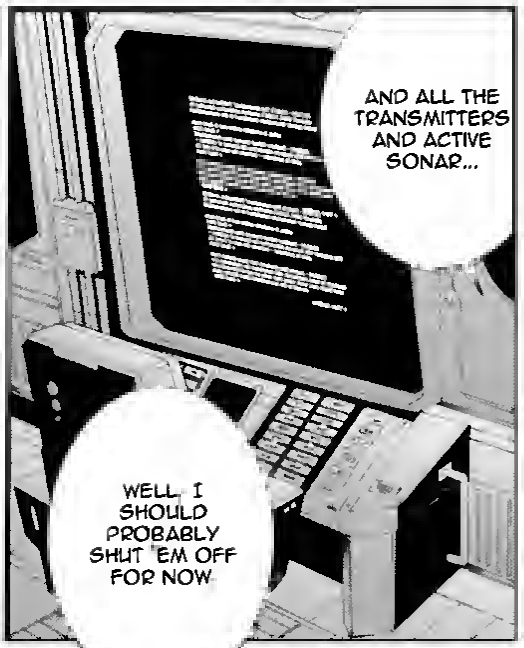
YES! I STARTED THE ZANZIBAR FUSION REACTOR ALL BY MYSELF!
I'M AMAZING!
I REALLY AM A GENIUS!

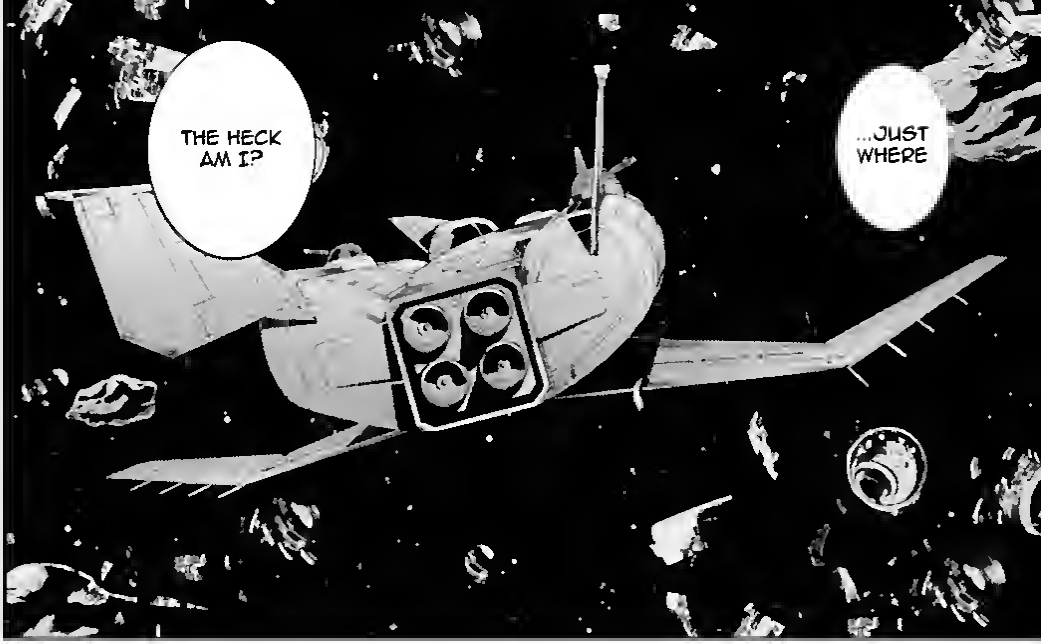

NOW I CAN TAKE AS MANY BATHS AND USE AS MUCH ELECTRICITY AS I WANT!!


...

I GOTTA SCAN THE AREA
OH RIGHT.


THERE'S STILL PLENTY TO DO...
ANYWAY...


AND ALL THE TRANSMITTERS AND ACTIVE SONAR...
WELL, I SHOULD PROBABLY SHUT 'EM OFF FOR NOW


THE HECK AM I?
...JUST WHERE

SFX: GRIN GRIN GRIN
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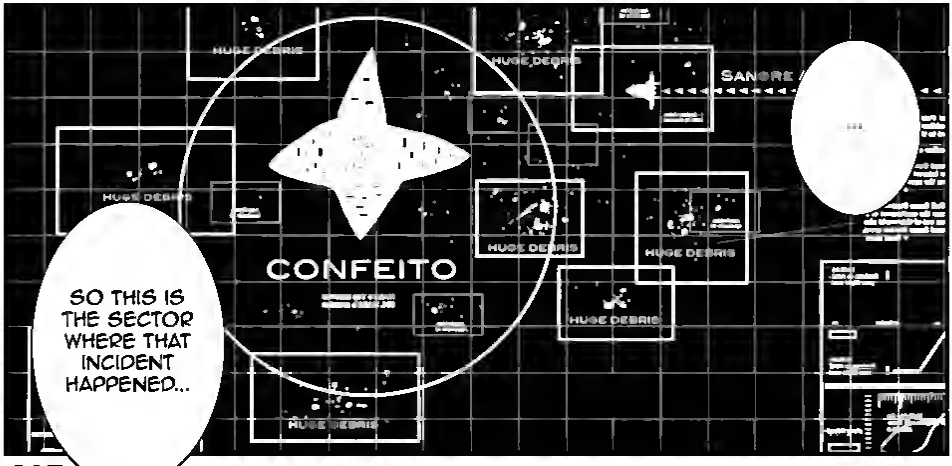
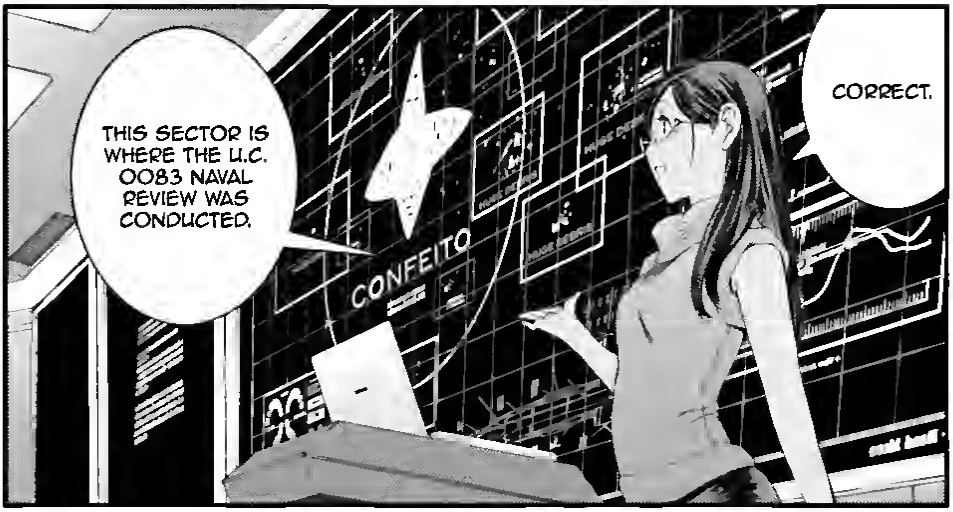

HUGE DEBRIS
HUGE DEBRIS
SANGRE
HUGE DEBRIS
CONFEITO
HUGE DEBRIS
HUGE DEBRIS
HUGE DEBRIS
HUGE DEBRIS
SO THIS IS THE SECTOR WHERE THAT INCIDENT HAPPENED...


THIS SECTOR IS WHERE THE U.C. 0083 NAVAL REVIEW WAS CONDUCTED.
CORRECT.
CONFEITO

THAT INCIDENT WAS NEVER MADE PUBLIC, YOU SEE.
YOU SURE SHOT IT INTO A FUN PLACE THIS TIME.

I DOUBT ANYBODY WILL NOTICE IT AMONG ALL THE DEBRIS
SO I SECRETLY SLIPPED IT INTO THE OUTER EDGE VIA INERTIAL FLIGHT.
THE EXPLOSION EPICENTER ASIDE, A FLEET-SIZED SEA OF DEBRIS IS FLOATING HERE

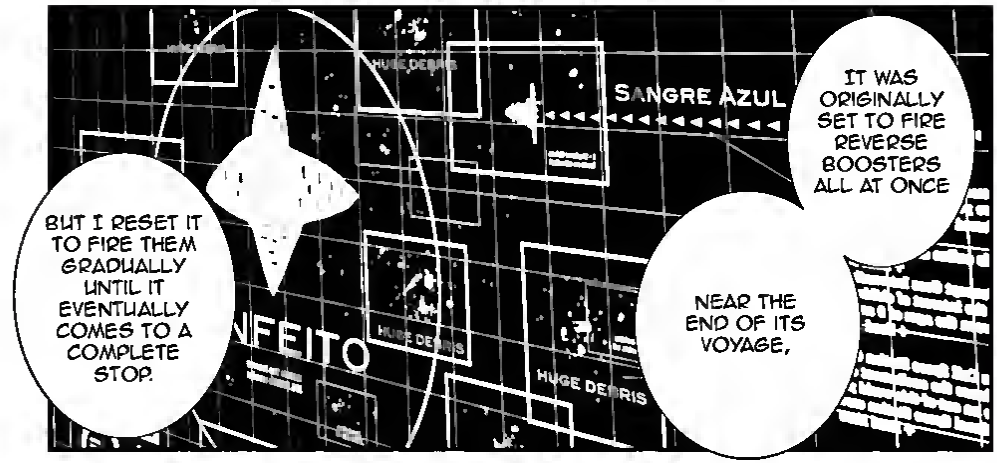
NOBODY EVEN WANTS TO SET FOOT HERE.
IT'S THE PERFECT PLACE TO LIE LOW.
IN ADDITION, NOBODY WANTS TO GET INVOLVED WITH THIS SECTOR'S SCANDAL.
YOU MAY BE RIGHT, BUT....
THAT AREA IS INSIDE KONPEITO'S AIR DEFENSE PERIMETER.
PLUS, EVEN IF ONLY THE OUTER PERIMETER,
THAT IS CORRECT! ♥
THOSE UNLUCKY ENOUGH TO SLIP INSIDE ARE SAFE FROM EXTERNAL ATTACK...

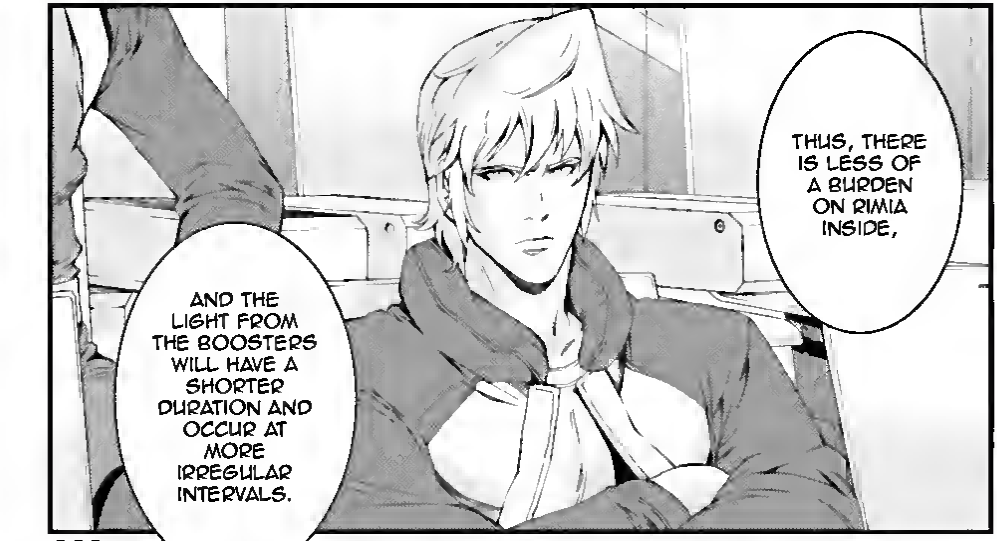
OH, NO NEED FOR ALL THE COMPLI-MENTS!
YOU FINALLY NOTICED? AND SHE'S BEEN TAGGING ALONG THIS WHOLE TIME.
SHE'S A SCARY LITTLE GIRL.

UNDER THOSE CIRCUM-STANCES, YOU DID A FINE JOB.
NO,

ONCE IT SEPARATES FROM THE BOOSTERS.
CONFEITO
THE SANGRE AZUL WAS SET TO GO INTO INERTIAL FLIGHT

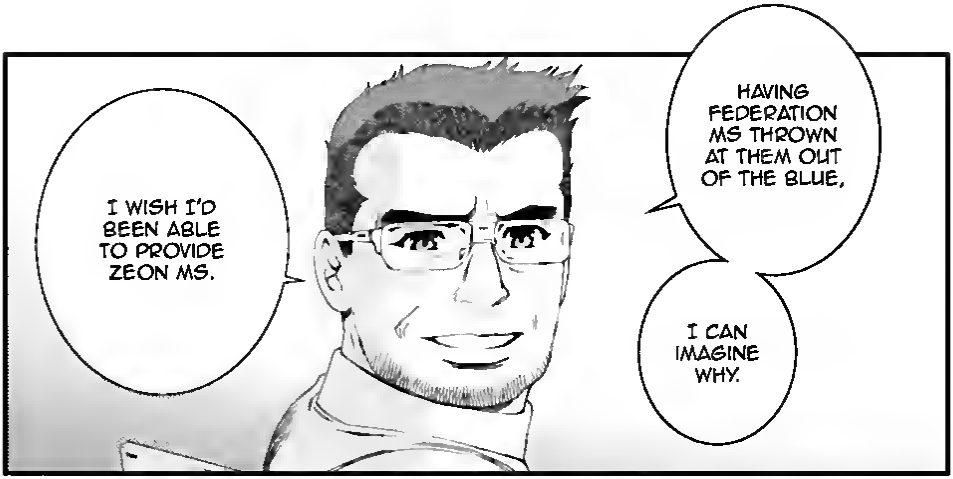
HUGE DEBRIS
SANGRE AZUL
I DIDN'T ALTER THAT AT ALL
BUT I DID CHANGE THE TRAJECTORY AND ITS ROUTINES FOR STOPPING


SANGRE AZUL
HUGE DEBRIS
IT WAS ORIGINALLY SET TO FIRE REVERSE BOOSTERS ALL AT ONCE
NEAR THE END OF ITS VOYAGE,
BUT I RESET IT TO FIRE THEM GRADUALLY UNTIL IT EVENTUALLY COMES TO A COMPLETE STOP.

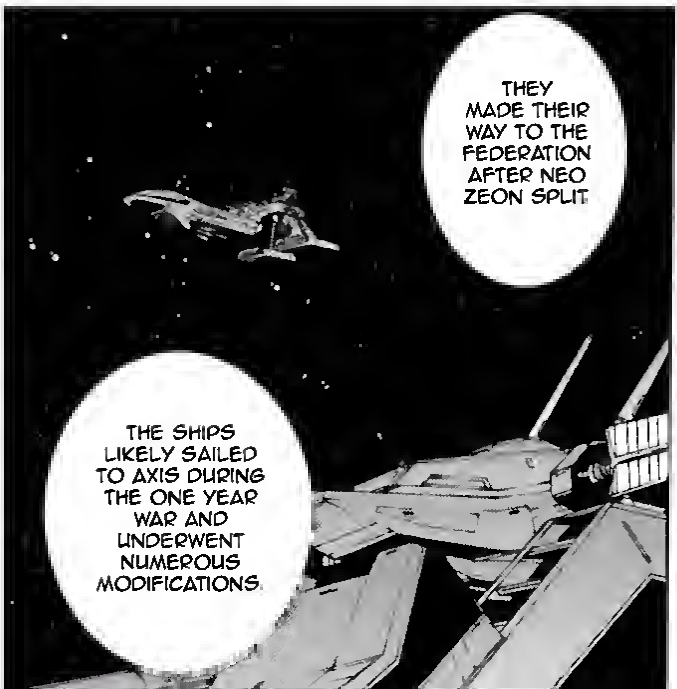

THUS, THERE IS LESS OF A BURDEN ON RIMIA INSIDE,
AND THE LIGHT FROM THE BOOSTERS WILL HAVE A SHORTER DURATION AND OCCUR AT MORE IRREGULAR INTERVALS.

ACCORDING TO OUR CHEEKY COMMUNI-CATIONS OFFICER,
NOBODY IS REPORTING ANY KIND OF UNIDENTIFIED OBJECTS ANYWHERE IN THE FEDERATION YET.
SO IT SEEMS THAT NOBODY HAS SPOTTED THE REVERSE BOOSTER LIGHTS YET.
THAT MEANS...
THE SANGRE AZUL
IS DRIFTING IN THE AREA INPUTTED BY AISHWARYA.
HUGE DEBRIS
HUGE DEBRIS
CONFEITO

OH DON'T BE SO NEGATIVE.
HOW ARE THINGS ON YOUR END?
IF THEY'D JUST SNIFF US OUT ALREADY.
PROBABLY... BUT WE'D BE ABLE TO MOVE AROUND HAPPY AND FREE
THERE'S JUST NO HIDING THE 10 YEARS WE'VE BEEN DAWDLING ON THE OCEAN FLOOR.
WELL... I WANT TO SAY SHIPSHAPE BUT
ARE STRUGGLING TO KEEP UP.
THE MS PILOTS ESPECIALLY


I WISH I'D BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE ZEON MS.
HAVING FEDERATION MS THROWN AT THEM OUT OF THE BLUE,
I CAN IMAGINE WHY.

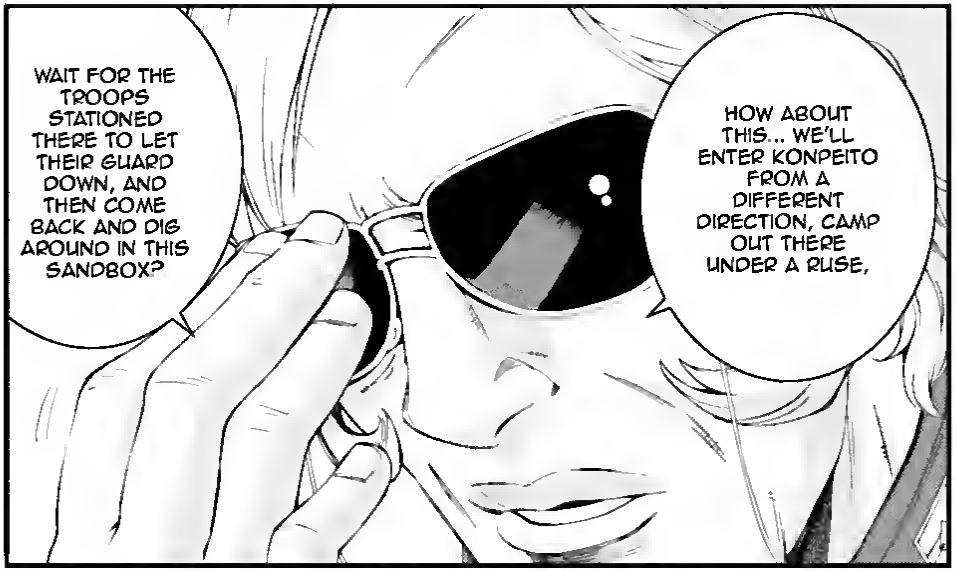
ARE FAIRLY DIFFERENT FROM ONES WE'VE CREWED IN THE PAST.
THE MUSAI AS WELL


THEY MADE THEIR WAY TO THE FEDERATION AFTER NEO ZEON SPLIT
THE SHIPS LIKELY SAILED TO AXIS DURING THE ONE YEAR WAR AND UNDERWENT NUMEROUS MODIFICATIONS.

THOSE 3 VESSELS
CAME TO US THANKS TO NEO ZEON DEFECTORS.

I'M SURE THIS OPERATION WILL BE OVER SOON.
KEEPING THE SHIPS IN FORMATION IS ALL I CAN DEMAND OF YOU GENTLEMEN.
SO IT SEEMS.
YES.
YOU THINK SO?
I WILL DO MY UTMOST TO THAT END.
I WANT TO BE REASSURED SO,
BUT IT'S BECOMING OF SOLDIERS TO PREPARE FOR THE WORST.

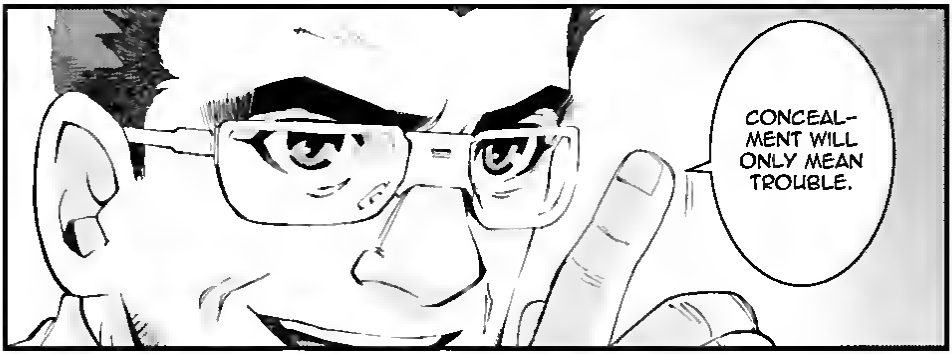
I HAVE EVERY INTENTION TO REPAY OUR DEBTS.
MANY THANKS.
WE'LL HAVE TO CONCEAL OUR MOVEMENTS FROM THE FEDERATION MILITARY, RIGHT?
SO... WHAT'S THE PLAN? IF WE'RE HEADING TO KONPEITO,
CONFEITO
YOU'RE RIGHT.
...YEAH

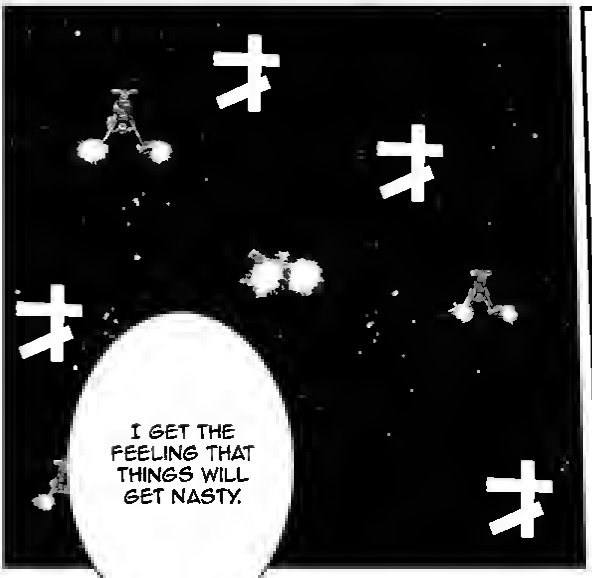

WAIT FOR THE TROOPS STATIONED THERE TO LET THEIR GUARD DOWN, AND THEN COME BACK AND DIG AROUND IN THIS SANDBOX?
HOW ABOUT THIS... WE'LL ENTER KONPEITO FROM A DIFFERENT DIRECTION, CAMP OUT THERE UNDER A RUSE,

...ALRIGHT.

...
...NO, WAIT.
E DEBRIS
SANGF

LET'S TRY A DIFFERENT TACTIC.


CONCEAL-MENT WILL ONLY MEAN TROUBLE.

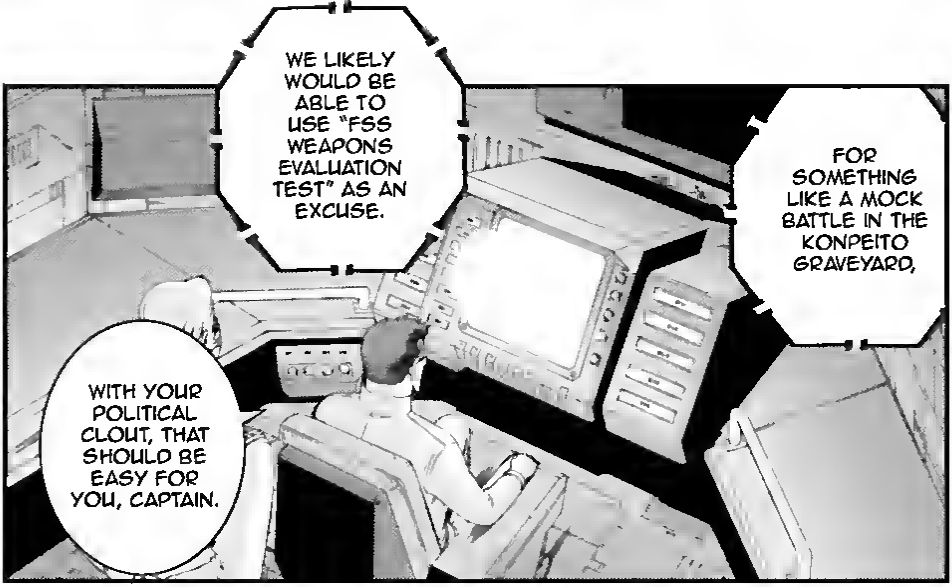

I GET THE FEELING THAT THINGS WILL GET NASTY.

...

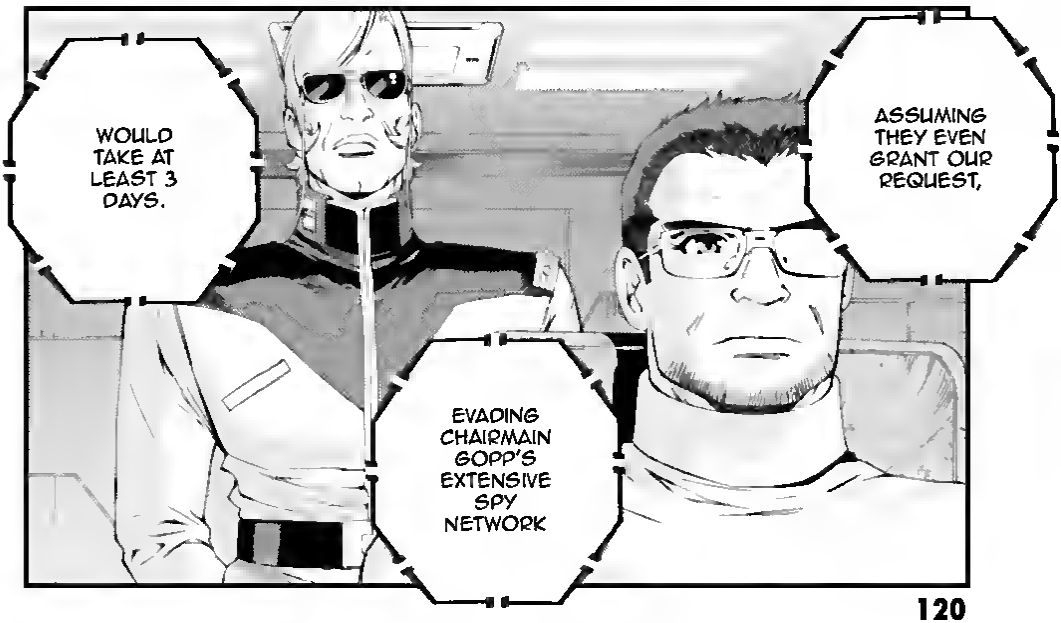
THERE'S ONE PROBLEM WITH THIS IDEA.
I UNDERSTAND THE CIRCUMSTANCES ... HOWEVER,

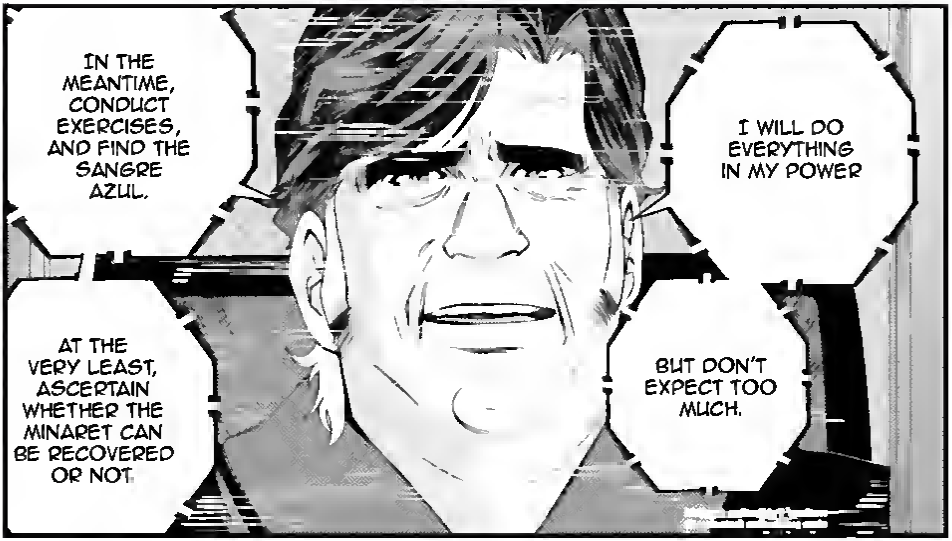
BECAUSE WE'RE GOING THROUGH OFFICIAL CHANNELS, ANYBODY IN THE FEDERATION CAN CATCH ONTO OUR MOVEMENTS.
YES, I'M AWARE OF IT.

PRECISELY.
WRITTEN ALL OVER IT.
THIS FLEET WILL HAVE THE NAME OF CLIFF OKSNER


WE LIKELY WOULD BE ABLE TO USE "FSS WEAPONS EVALUATION TEST" AS AN EXCUSE.
FOR SOMETHING LIKE A MOCK BATTLE IN THE KONPEITO GRAVEYARD,
WITH YOUR POLITICAL CLOUT, THAT SHOULD BE EASY FOR YOU, CAPTAIN.

DON'T MAKE IT SOUND SO EASY, ALBERT


WOULD TAKE AT LEAST 3 DAYS.
ASSUMING THEY EVEN GRANT OUR REQUEST,
EVADING CHAIRMAIN GOPP'S EXTENSIVE SPY NETWORK


IN THE MEANTIME, CONDUCT EXERCISES, AND FIND THE SANGRE AZUL.
I WILL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER
AT THE VERY LEAST, ASCERTAIN WHETHER THE MINARET CAN BE RECOVERED OR NOT.
BUT DON'T EXPECT TOO MUCH.

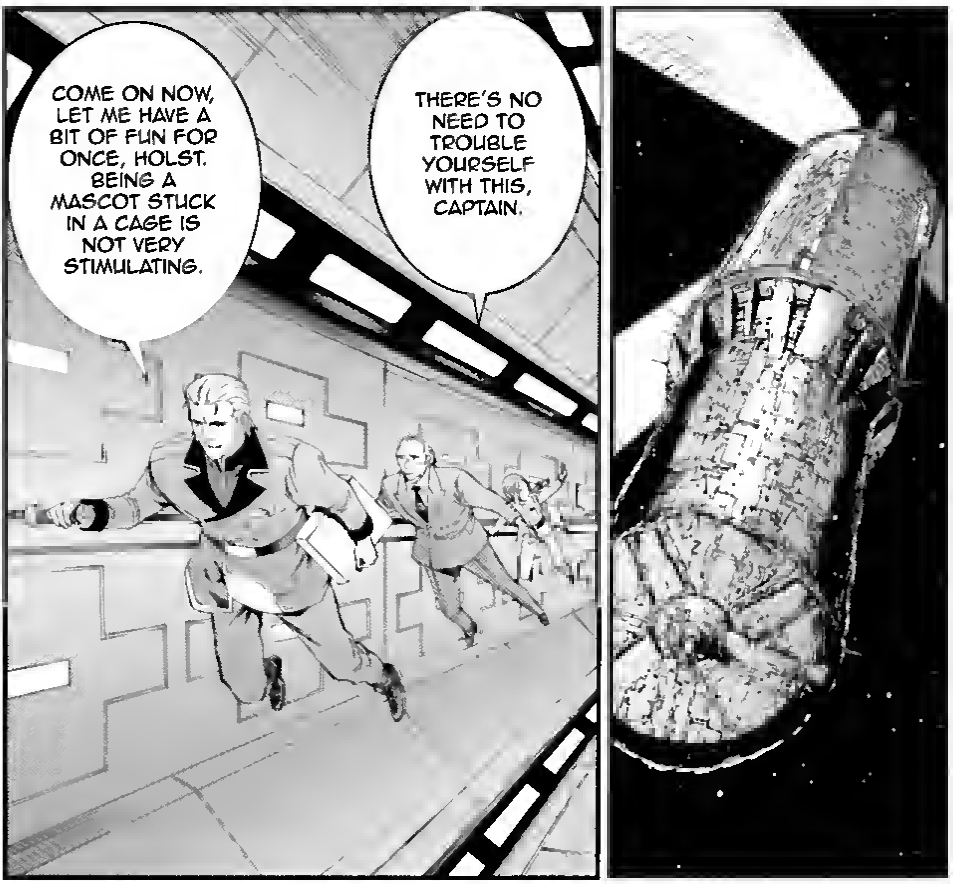
WON'T THE CHAIRMAN WILL TAKE NOTICE, CAPTAIN?
WHICHEVER ROAD WE TAKE, IF OUR PRESENCE AT KONPEITO IS KNOWN,

IF THAT HAPPENS, WE WON'T HAVE TIME
TO DO A CAREFUL SEARCH.
...

BACK WHEN YOU WERE AN OFFICER, DID YOU NOT TELL ME THAT YOURSELF?
"OPERATIONS WITHOUT A CALCULATED RISK ARE DOUBTFUL."
YOU'VE GOT ME THERE...
I WILL CONTACT KONPEITO COMMAND DIRECTLY AND PUT IN A REQUEST.

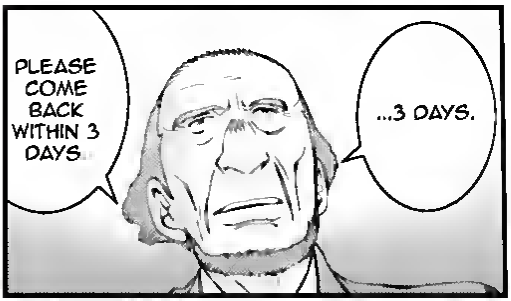
BE READY TO MOVE AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE.
I WILL INFORM YOU AS SOON AS I GET APPROVAL.
NOW THEN, LET'S GET TO WORK RIGHT AWAY.
YES SIR.
GOOD GRIEF...
WELL... YOU HEARD THE MAN.
BLIP

SFX: PSHEUW
TO THE EDGE OF KONPEITO'S DEFENSIVE PERIMETER.
I'LL GO AHEAD AND MOVE OUR RAGTAG FLEET


COME ON NOW, LET ME HAVE A BIT OF FUN FOR ONCE, HOLST. BEING A MASCOT STUCK IN A CAGE IS NOT VERY STIMULATING.
THERE'S NO NEED TO TROUBLE YOURSELF WITH THIS, CAPTAIN.

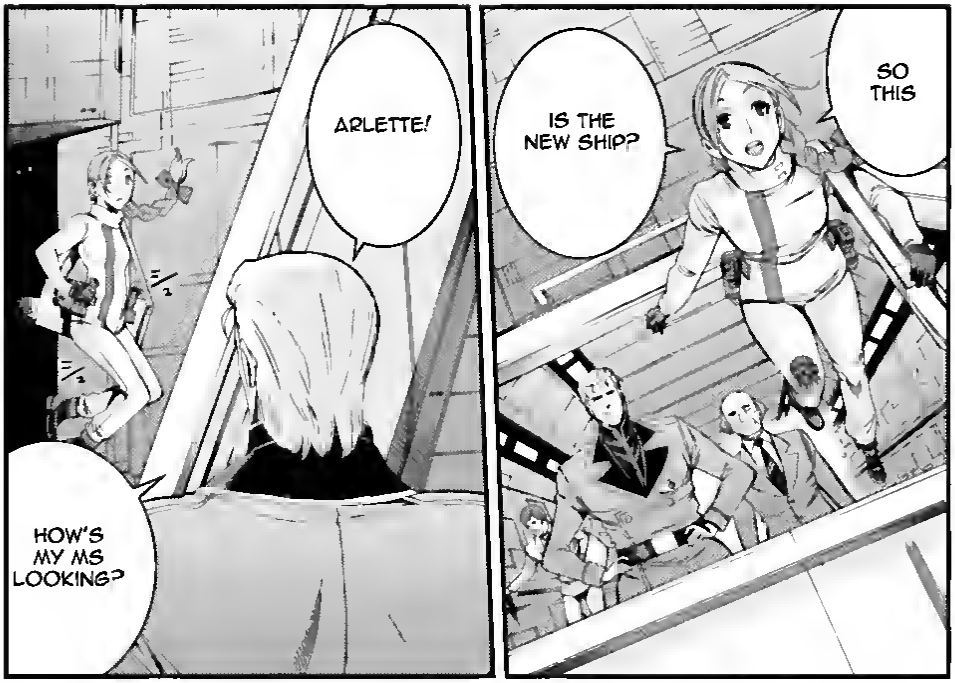
BUT CAPTAIN... WITH ONLY ONE SHIP..
YOU'RE DOUBTING MY SKILLS?
IF I RECALL...
YOU HAD GIVEN ME TWO SHIPS BACK THEN.
YOU HAVE EXCELLENT MEMORY FOR YOUR AGE.
HOLST.
CAPTAIN.
DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT. I'LL GO ON A QUICK TOUR AND COME BACK.
I WON'T FAIL LIKE I DID AT SIDE 7.

BESIDES,
THIS SHIP MUST BE TESTED, DON'T YOU AGREE?

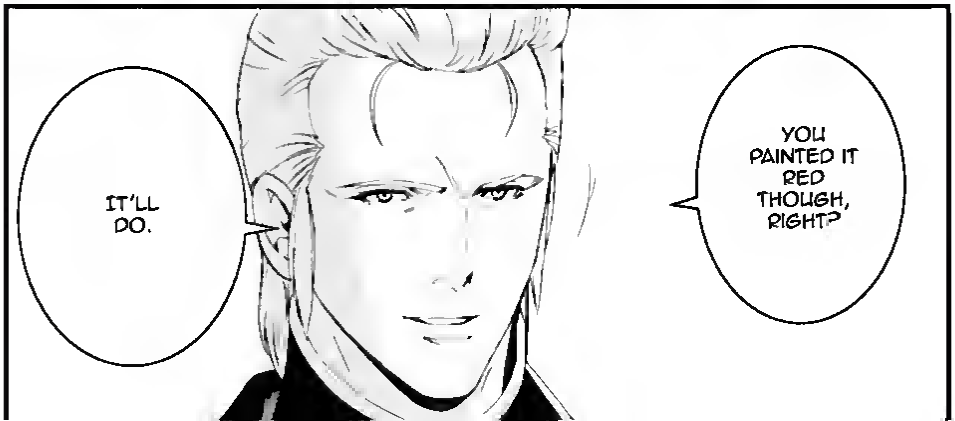

PLEASE COME BACK WITHIN 3 DAYS.
...3 DAYS.

I TRY OUT MY NEW TOYS RIGHT AWAY.
AFTER ALL, I WON'T HAVE PEACE UNTIL

MUCH OBLIGED.
HOLST.

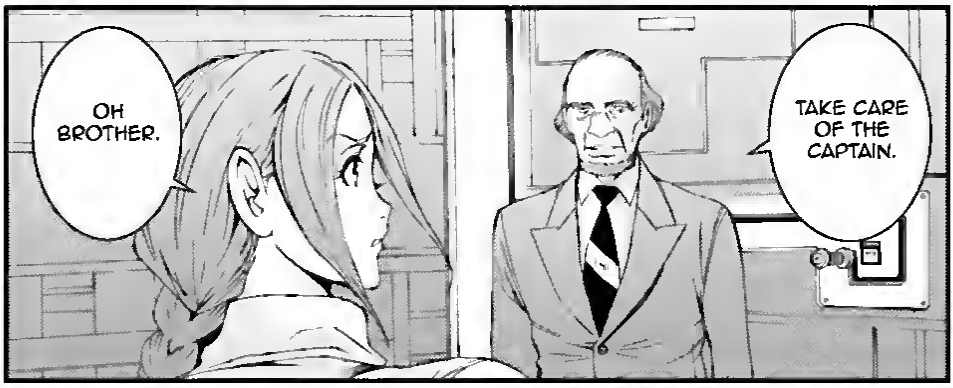

SFX: PSSH PSSH
ARLETTE!
HOW'S MY MS LOOKING?
IS THE NEW SHIP?
SO THIS

IT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU, CAPTAIN.
IT'S... JUST AN EXPERIMENTAL UNIT, ISN'T IT?


IT'LL DO.
YOU PAINTED IT RED THOUGH, RIGHT?

I'M COUNTING ON YOU.

NOT AGAIN..


OH BROTHER.
TAKE CARE OF THE CAPTAIN.

I HEAR THERE ARE ALL-FEMALE MS DESIGN TEAMS AT ANAHEIM AS WELL.
--
FEMALE MS ENGINEERS NOWADAYS ANYHOW?
WHY ARE THERE SO MANY

IT'S BECAUSE ALL THE MEN
ARE OUT FIGHTING WARS.